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REAL JUNGLE DRUMMER

Festival-goers are now anxiously awaiting to hear what bands will be taking to the Red List Live stage this year... not to mention this heavyweight music lover who's favourite genre is, ahem, jungle.

Organisers say bands and headliners will be announced over the coming weeks - but if you attended Zoo8 what do you make of the new event? Will you snap up tickets?

Let us know. Email: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. Write: The Editor, Yourashford, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

ORGANISERS of a huge music festival at Port Lympne this summer say there will be no repeat of the fiasco on the site last year.

Red List Live was unveiled on Friday promising a line-up of big name stars and three days of music and entertainment at the popular wildlife park between Ashford and Hythe.

And it has gone to great lengths to make it quite clear it has nothing to do with the debacle of Zoo8 last year.

Then fuming festival-goers were left angry after a string of problems which saw headline acts such as Dizzee Rascal not paid and pulling out at the last minute and major criticism over the standard of facilities.

Red List Live, however, is a completely new, different, company which has set out to raise money only for charity in a bid to heal the scars caused by Zoo8.

And it hopes to lure families in with a diverse line-up of acts which will range from pop to poetry. The capacity will be 15,000 over the three days.

Headliners are still to be revealed, but blasts from the past The Wedding Present and The Undertones have both been confirmed. Bigger names are set to be unveiled soon.

Red List promises 200 acts across several stages, as well as a dance tent, family area and unsigned tents to show off upcoming talent.

Top stand-up, theatre and performance art will also feature heavily.

Organisers of the festival, to be held at Port Lympne from June 19-21, aim to raise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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See the community channel and search 'rallycross'



2 Remarkable community pulls together for stage show.
See the community channel and search 'Newchurch'



3 Ration packs being sent to our boys in Afghanistan.
See the community channel and search 'ration'

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EDITOR: Chris Britcher 01303 817171
GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032
WEBSITE: www.yourashford.co.uk
TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110
FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Controversial road plan to be shared?

BY ED HILL

IT may have been mocked, but a shared space scheme similar to the controversial one in the town centre could be set to roll-out in one of the borough's boom areas.

Two public meetings were held last week at Shadoxhurst Village Hall and Great Chart Primary School to give residents the chance to see how the Chilmington Green and Discovery Park area of Ashford will be developed to create around 3,350 homes and 600 new jobs by 2021.

And one of the proposals would be to roll-out a similar shared space scheme as recently unveiled in Elwick Road. The scheme blurs the boundaries of roads and paths giving more power to pedestrians and slowing down traffic flows.

Residents were able to view and comment on a number of initial plans and drawings that will shape outline detailed proposals for the development of the area.

Extensive

The plans and drawings were the outcome of a workshop held with parish council and community representatives, council members, planning officers and developers.

National experts on 'place-making' were brought in to help and advise on the best ways forward.

The plans essentially mean a new town will be built to the south west of Ashford between Singleton and Stubb's Cross. A further 3,000 homes are planned after the initial scheme is completed.

The proposals also include new transport schemes such as park-and-ride sites, an extensive cycle network and a new Smartlink bus service through the development.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Opinion is currently split on the Elwick Road shared space scheme

However, the council stressed that plans were still at an early stage.

Richard Alderton, head of planning and development at Ashford council, said: "The workshops brought together a wide range of people with some impressive skills and experience in making better places."

"We are still at the early stages of planning this extension to Ashford, but some exciting ideas are emerging and from the outset high standards are being set."

"It is great we have been able to share these ideas immediately with local people to gauge their reaction."

"We will keep up this dialogue through the community forum we have set up and similar public events like this one."

"We will need to continue to work very closely together with local people, landowners and developers to create a sustainable development with high quality design standards and a true sense of place."

• Email yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk

Monies raised will go to Aspinall Foundation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

£100,000, with £5 from every ticket going to the Aspinall Foundation, as well as 50 per cent of the overall profits.

This will go towards a £1 million target to be raised by subsequent events over the next five years.

Work on the festival has been under way for months and organisers are only too aware of the damage caused by last year's festival casting a shadow over this.

Festival director Eddie Hill said: "This is not about lining anyone's pockets; this is something people can feel good about going to."

"They will have a great time, but they will also be directly supporting the Aspinall Foundation and the work it does protecting endangered species around the world."

Long-term

And with many predicting hard times ahead for Britain's competitive festival market, Red List is one event that will not find itself short of cash.

The festival is being bankrolled by Kent businessman Daniel Quirke, who has agreed a five-year business plan with the Aspinall Foundation.

Miss Hill said: "We are not going to be a one hit wonder. It might not be the ideal year to launch this kind of event, but it's not just about this year, or next year. We have a five-year business plan, possibly longer, and it's definitely a long-term thing."

"And the indications are the domestic tourism market might have benefited from the credit crunch as people spend their money at home instead of going abroad."

"With this in mind we are pitching it very much at families, as a place where they can go and camp for three or four days and have a great time."

Early bird tickets for adults and teenagers are on sale now for £99. Tickets for four to 12-year-olds will be £20 while children under four go free.

For details visit www.redlistlive.com.

Outlet's message of love from its shoppers

A LOVE-themed charity event is taking place at Ashford Designer Outlet this Valentine's Day to raise funds for children's hospice Demelza.

Shoppers are being encouraged to visit the foodcourt between 10am-5pm, where they can pay £1 to leave a message for a loved one.

All the messages will then be put together to create a giant love heart that will be displayed in the outlet's foodcourt.

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What's next in political saga of Damian Green?

Speculation suggests MP could see police case closed next week

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

THE next instalment in the remarkable drama surrounding our MP Damian Green takes place on Tuesday as he reports back to police following his hugely controversial arrest.

Mr Green is required to attend a central London police station as part of his bail conditions after his arrest in November, which sent shockwaves across Westminster.

And, as Yourashford went to press, the corridors of power were alive with whispers Mr Green would see the police's case against him dropped.

If it is, it will come as a huge relief to the Conservative shadow immigration spokesman.

He was arrested on November 27 amid allegations of receiving leaked sensitive information from the Home Office. He was quizzed for nine hours before being released on police bail, without being charged.

Mr Green denies any wrongdoing and insists he was simply doing his job of exposing shortcomings of the Government.

But the manner in which police carried out the raids on his home in Charing and his offices in Bethersden and Westminster, has stoked a hornet's nest which continues to sting high-ranking figures in Westminster and the police.

Meanwhile, Mr Green has been catapulted into the headlines like never before, raising his profile and turning him into a Tory heavy hitter.

His standing within the Conservative Party has grown greatly and he has won the full support of leader David Cameron, prompting many to suggest the whole episode has enhanced his political ambitions.

Mr Green, meanwhile, has endeavoured to continue his constituency work as best he can, but was this week remaining tight-lipped when approached for a comment.

If police believe there is sufficient evidence then he could be re-arrested and bailed again – or the case closed.

Earlier this week, there was speculation the case against the MP was to be dropped on the grounds of parliamentary privilege.

The law gives MPs special rights to be able to say what they want in Parliament without fear of legal action being taken against them.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is currently preparing a report on the case. It has to



Picture: KNP

CONTROVERSY: Damian Green was arrested in November, and his office and home raided by police

decide whether it will continue with the case against Mr Green and Christopher Galley, the civil servant who is alleged to have broken confidentiality rules by leaking the information to Mr Green.

Community hub plans revealed

PLANS for a new community centre in Willesborough have gone on display.

The proposals mean a new building for the Swan Centre in Cudworth Road.

The new facility will offer a crèche, health services, parenting support, sports activities and changing rooms, arts, music and other skills training.

A fun day was held by Ashford council at the current site, together with partners from the Swan Centre Trust, SureStart, and KCC to mark the occasion. The aim of the day was to get feedback on the plans.

A spokesman for Ashford council said: "By developing this site, we will be able to provide modern and much-needed facilities as focal point for the community."

Funding for the project is anticipated to come from a combination of private and public sector money.

A multi-use games area is also planned for the nearby recreation ground.

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When winter arrived. Snow scenes. Search 'snow'



Picture: ED HILL

CONFIDENT: Dean Headley opens the new expansion of Advanced Lettings

Cricket star opens agency

ENGLAND and Kent cricket hero Dean Headley bowled up to open a new residential lettings agency in Bank Street on Monday.

The former fast bowler cut the ribbon at Advanced Lettings which has taken the brave step of expanding despite concerns over the property market.

But agency chiefs say they are confident of success despite the economic challenges.

Ken Simpson who started the company, has 19 years experience in the rental market.

He said: "Ashford is growing and it has many new assets that are attracting people to live and work here.

"We think it will remain a strong rental market."

For more information go to www.advancedlettings.com.

Budget challenge will be met insists determined council

■ BY ED HILL

ASHFORD council chiefs say its budget IS deliverable – despite its own scrutiny committee recommending it be rejected.

The council discussed the findings of the report at its executive committee meeting last week.

And in the same meeting it was confirmed council chiefs are to propose a 4.7 per cent increase in its share of the council tax bill.

A task group of the council's overview and scrutiny committee produced a report saying council figures presented to them meant it would not be able to balance the books and would have a shortfall of more than £227,000.

It blamed the sharp decline in interest rates for hitting the council's bottom line hard.

But the council says it can achieve the savings it requires.

One of the main areas it is looking to save money concerns the collection of green waste where it has two options.

It can either stop its current service altogether or introduce a charge for the service, a move adopted by other councils.

The council hopes to be able to gain more than £300,000.

The matter will now be considered by a policy advisory group.

It is also going to continue on its path of reducing staffing levels and is proposing a council tax rise of 4.7 per cent.

The rise still has to be agreed by the full council before it is passed. Kent County Council's slice will be the dominant part of the tax – it is proposing just a 2.2 per cent increase for 2009-10.

A council spokesman said: "The deputy leader Cllr Paul Bartlett was in no doubt the budget would be delivered this year but it would be difficult and it would be challenging."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Music festival is singing out for choir entrants

THE Equator Music Festival has announced a competition for schools, youth and adult choirs around the town.

Ten choirs will be shortlisted to perform at a special concert on July 2 at St Mary's Church in the town.

Choirs must have a minimum of 12 members and not be run by professional music organisations. The deadline for submissions is May 6. Find out how to enter at www.shivanova.com.

Head to County Square for a Jurassic experience

CHILDREN looking for something to do during half term can take a step back to the Jurassic period on February 18 with a dinosaur-themed creative workshop at County Square.

There'll be lots of designs for children to choose from, or they can produce their own creations. The first workshop runs from 11am-1pm and the second runs from 2pm-4pm. The event is free but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

It's a new way of looking at the childbirth process

A MIDWIFE has invented a new mirror to help mothers and medics with childbirth.

Virginia Howes, from Repton Park, has created an all stainless steel mirror which can be sterilised more easily and give midwives a better view of the birth.

The devices are used to help mothers who choose to give birth using natural birth positions. Mrs Howes said: "I am not an entrepreneur; it is just good midwifery sense." Go to www.kentmidwiferypractice.co.uk.

Delight as all-weather football pitch is unveiled

A NEW all-weather football pitch has been opened at the Mini Soccer Centre in Stanhope.

The surface should mean less humps and bumps, better ball control and fewer injuries for youngsters playing at the ground. The new facility was opened by local MP Damian Green.

He said: "We now have a world class artificial turf pitch which will be the envy of all our neighbours."

Fight to bring benefit fraudsters to justice



■ BY ED HILL

IT won support at the most senior level of the British government, and sent calls to hotlines rocketing.

And now, after a year of our hugely successful Your Money, Your Loss! campaign we draw it to an end.

But we are continuing to urge our readers to stop those trying to swindle the system by pinching cash from public funds which could have been spent on improving community facilities for the benefit of us all.

And to round off our campaign we spoke to a benefit officer on the front line. Speaking on the understanding on anonymity, given the sensitivity of his investigations, he hammered home the message.

He said: "Benefit fraud of whatever type is not committed against a faceless organisation. It directly steals money which is set aside for the most vulnerable members of society – the old, those with disabilities and people who have no other source of income.

"That is why I got involved in this work –

'FRAUDSTERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED'

PM backs our campaign to beat benefit swindlers

EXCLUSIVE
BY ED HILL
SUPPORT for our crackdown on benefit cheats has reached the highest level of Government, after Prime Minister Gordon Brown sent a personal message of support.



BROWN BACKS

YOU'RE HELPING TO CATCH THE CHEATS



FRONT PAGE NEWS: Our stories got hotlines ringing and won support from Prime Minister Gordon Brown himself

whether I bring £2 or £2,000 back into the public purse I feel satisfaction in my job."

The range of offences that officers investigate is wide. It can be a case of someone who is working and still claiming benefit, or someone who deliberately does not reveal the assets that they have or someone who is living with someone who is earning a wage.

In one case in Ashford last year a man received £150,000 from his mother who had won the lottery but continued to claim benefits from the Department of Work and Pensions. He was sent to jail.

Councillor Paul Bartlett, deputy leader of Ashford council, said: "Our message to would-be fraudsters has always been very clear – you will eventually be caught, forced to pay back

the money and you could even end up in jail – and we have seen a big increase in the amount of public tip-offs since the campaign was launched."

Your Money, Your Loss! – run in conjunction with the council – received the personal endorsement from Prime Minister Gordon Brown and since its launch the council say they have seen a sharp increase in calls to its fraud hotline as well as letters and tip-offs.

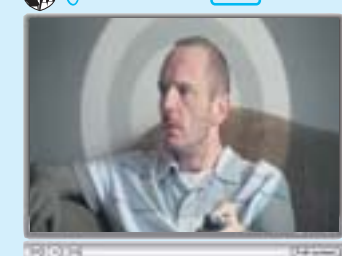
Cllr Bartlett added: "The response to the campaign has been fantastic and the council is very grateful to Yourashford for its help in tackling such a serious matter."

If you have information about someone involved in benefit fraud call 0800 854 440 or call Ashford council direct on 01233 330453.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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You can run but you can't hide

HONESTY is always the best policy when it comes to making benefit claims, say the inspectors tasked with hunting down those trying to cheat the system.

And with increasingly high-tech methods at their disposal with which to find the guilty parties, the message remains – you can run, but you can't hide.

The benefits investigator told Yourashford people need to ignore the old myth about 'what you can get away with'. He explained: "We are the professionals – it's no good asking your mate in the pub what he thinks you are entitled to.

By being honest people can save themselves a whole lot of trouble."

Tax credits are also ensuring it should no longer be the case that those in work are worse off than those claiming benefits.

The cost of being caught is too steep. Hefty fines or even prison can face those found guilty – and that's in addition to having to repay the money stolen.

You can see the latest government TV advertisement campaign now by logging-on to our free broadband TV www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Simply search 'fraud'.

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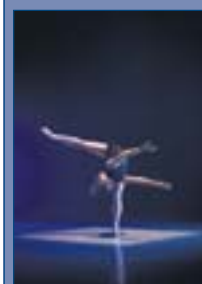
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ARTISTIC TREAT: Russian artist Dmitry Korman stands by his creation adorning the walls within the Croft Hotel

Diners will be drawn in to an Italian setting

■ BY ED HILL

DINERS at the La Dolce Vita restaurant at the Croft Hotel will soon have a flavour of classic Italy thanks to artwork from a Russian artist.

Dmitry Korman is currently decorating the restaurant's walls with large scale views of scenes inspired from areas such as Naples and Venice.

It transforms the hotel on the Canterbury Road in Kennington and, it is hoped, will help draw in diners from across the borough.

He said: "I exhibit my own work and also do portraits and commissions but I also look for work by looking up suitable restaurants that I think might be interested in my work. It's a tradition to have murals, particularly in Italian restaurants.

"I knew this would be ideal as soon as I saw the name and fortunately the owners were looking for something to enhance the restaurant when I approached them."

The artist left his native Russia, where he trained in St Petersburg, 15 years ago. He now lives in Switzerland. He has since worked in Antwerp, Paris and Milan.

What's more, this is not the first work of



ITALIAN: La Dolce Vita restaurant at the Croft Hotel

this kind he's undertaken.

He was first approached to do restaurant artwork in Montreal.

He said: "I was doing a cityscape on a canvas when this guy came out of his restaurant and said would I like to paint the wall for his basement restaurant of the same view."

The artist is painting three walls in the hotel and is also painting the bar area with images inspired by the classic Italian films of the 60s.

"La Dolce Vita means 'Life is Sweet' in Italian. I want to create that feeling here," he said.

Jackie Arnison, manager at the hotel, said: "It has been great having Dmitry here, he is so enthusiastic about his work. He has been painting away in the evenings when our customers have been here. It has been great for them to watch him at work."

Your history on our broadband website

DISCOVER the town's heritage from the comfort of your PC – simply by visiting our free, broadband TV website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Our TV crew have compiled a two-part film focusing on the history of Ashford's former cattle market in Elwick Road. Presenter Julie Maddocks spoke to those who remember the site, examines its history and takes a look at the new venue on the Orbital Park.

Hundreds of viewers have already logged-on to watch the clips – now see it for yourself.

To access the clip simply search 'cattle'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Thumbs aloft - it's Sir Paul

IT'S not everyday rock royalty comes to town – but none other than Sir Paul McCartney paid a flying visit to Woodchurch recently.

The former Beatle, who lives near Rye in East Sussex, visited the Rare Breeds Centre on January 31 with his young daughter, who was attending a private party.

Sir Paul was seen mingling with the crowds and enjoying the food at the canteen. A spokesman said: "He was at the centre. His child was a guest at another child's party. We respected his privacy."

The Rare Breeds Centre is part of the Canterbury Oast Trust charity which provides homes, care and occupational opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

At the centre children get a chance to get up close to rare breeds of farm animals as well as insects and birds of prey.

Sir Paul lives 12 miles away from the centre at his 160-acre estate in Peasmarsch.

Ice recognition for firm

BONNINGTON-based Simply Ice Cream has made it to the final round of the Real Food Festival 2009.

It is one of 500 firms at the event due to be held on May 8-10 at Earls Court.

Simply Ice cream produce indulgent ice cream in a variety of flavours including seasonal specials, made with local ingredients.

They supply outlets across Kent, East Sussex and London. Sally Newall, managing director of the company, said: "We are delighted to have been selected to take part in this exciting festival."

Appeal brought forward

THE appeal hearing into the case of Rachel Cheesewright has been brought forward by a month.

Originally due to be held at the Court of Appeal in London at the end of April, it has now been rescheduled for March 26.

Miss Cheesewright, 29, was killed when a police car smashed into her vehicle on the A28 near Bethersden with such force it cut her car in two and killed her instantly.

Last year a judge at Canterbury Civil Court ruled the police driver was '100 per cent' at fault. Kent Police are now appealing that ruling.

Win a romantic Valentine's champagne balloon flight

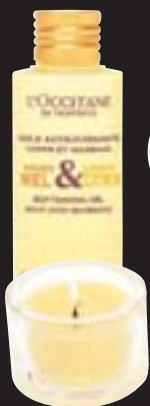
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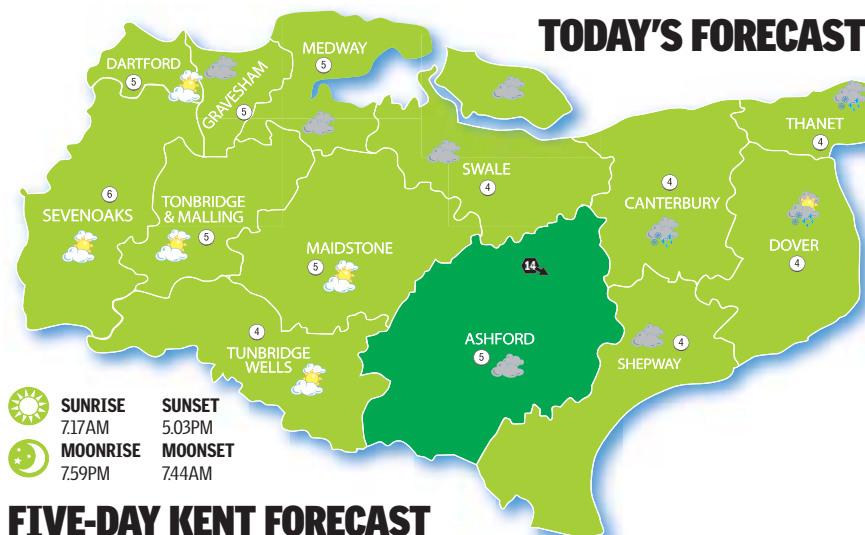
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Chatham	Saturday	4:00pm	5.9m
	Sunday	4:37pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	2:09pm	6.3m
	Sunday	2:47pm	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:10pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:51pm	6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:39pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:17pm	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:50pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:26pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:59pm	5.2m
	Sunday	4:31pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	12°C	New York	12°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	11°C	Rome	12°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	5°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	6°C
Hong Kong	23°C	Warsaw	1°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	21°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	Gravesend	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Canterbury	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Ramsgate	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Dartford	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Rochester	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Dover	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	3°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Folkestone	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C

Sounds like good news for hard of hearing patients

PEOPLE suffering hard of hearing problems in the area are now receiving a better service according to local health officials.

More than £1 million has been invested in audiology services in the area. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) now says that waiting times have fallen from 18 months to 11 weeks.

Part of the success is due to working with a local company Hearbase and the charity Hi Kent which now runs regular hearing day workshops in outlets such as Age Concern and Gateway offices in Ashford, Tenterden, Wye, Woodchurch and Smarden.

James Ransom is the lead commissioner for head and neck services at the PCT.

He said: "I want to pay tribute to everybody involved in reducing the waiting lists."

"Recently, many of the patients attending surgery sessions have been able to be assessed and fitted with a hearing aid on the same day."

To find out where your next Hi Kent hearing day will be call 01622 691151.

Health authority posting

CHAIRMAN of the local primary care trust, Colin Tomson, has been given a three-month posting as chair of the strategic health authority.

The posting at the body, which covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex, means Mike Barkway will step into his shoes as chairman of the Eastern and Coastal PCT which covers Ashford.

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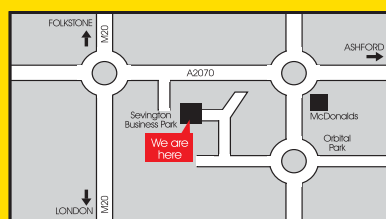
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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JO JONES



Q What is the history of the society?

A The Alzheimer's Society celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. It was formed when two people caring for loved ones with dementia discussed the need to improve the quality of care, support and information for people with dementia and their carers.

Q How did you become involved?

A I was employed by the branch in September 2008, to launch an outreach service. We have an office base in Ashford but make home visits to Ashford, Shepway, on the Romney Marshes and into Dover.

Q What sort of service do you offer people?

A We offer information, advice, long term support and advocacy for all those affected by dementia. The branch offers this via the community outreach service and a phone line. We train other organisations and we hope to roll out an educational programme for carers in 2009. We undertake GP referrals. We work closely with all the statutory and voluntary sector services to help navigate people to the help they need.

Q Do you think that dementia and Alzheimer's are to some extent swept under the carpet by society? Is it something that people are fearful of?

A We consider dementia to have the same stigma and fear associated with it as cancer did 30 years ago. Much of the fear is due to ignorance and the fact there's currently no cure. Dementia is a disease that affects the brain, not a mental illness but it can change the way people behave and without support and information this can be frightening. There's still a long way to go but I'm sure change has begun. We await to see how the National Strategy for Dementia will be implemented when it's launched by the Government shortly. Approximately 700,000 people are affected by dementia today, this figure is set to rise to one million by 2025. This is a disease that needs to be tackled head-on not "swept under the carpet".

Q What is the Ashford and Shepway area like in terms of care for people suffering from the condition?

A The Alzheimer's Society is launching two support groups imminently, one in Hawkinge and one in Ashford which is working in collaboration with the memory service team at the William Harvey Hospital. We are also working with Carer's Support to incorporate a dementia group to run alongside a dementia carers' support group in New Romney on the third Friday of the month.

It's been estimated to me that almost 50 per cent of case loads at social services are people affected by dementia. I believe the services in this area are evolving as recognition of the problem becomes unavoidable. There are voluntary

sector initiatives including befriending schemes, an emergency "dementia respite bed" pilot is being run by Shepway Social Services and we are awaiting the arrival of two Admiral Nurses whose primary role will be working with the carers' of those affected by dementia.

Q How can people get involved in the group?

A We are desperate for local volunteers to help us realise our ambitions. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact the office on 01233 643648 or via the email at ashford-shepway@alzheimers.org.uk

Q What do you think to author Terry Pratchett's response to being diagnosed with dementia?

A Terry Pratchett is a man with courage and determination in the face of adversity. What he has done to raise the awareness of dementia is truly amazing.

Q If you had not been involved in what you do now, is there any other career path you might have chosen?

A I worked in the retail sector for many years. I began outreach work as a volunteer for another charity. On taking the decision to return to work after having children, I was fortunate enough to find paid outreach work enabling me to work in an area I love and I hope to stay in.

• Ashford & Shepway Alzheimer's Society, Norman House Beaver Business Park, Beaver Road Ashford Kent. TN23 7SH.

Q&A

The Government has recently announced plans for new memory clinics to help treat people with dementia. Jo Jones, outreach worker for the Ashford and Shepway Alzheimer's Society, talks to **Ed Hill** about her work

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Pupils have put together a series of animated films. Search 'animation'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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MEP's bile at cruel international trade

EURO MP Sharon Bowles wants international pressure against the multi-million pound trade of bear bile to be stepped up.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has supported an online petition against the cruel practice of bear bile extraction in many Asian countries.

Bear bile is highly lucrative, with a single gram fetching up to £14 on the global market. The trade is thought to be worth £60 million a year in China alone.

However, leading animal rights organisations, including the charity Animals Asia, have condemned the practice.

Kent MEP Sharon Bowles has been running a campaign on her website and participated in Moon Bear Fun Day with Animals Asia.

She said: "The Government has done all that is legally possible to ban the trade of bear bile within the UK.

"This is a great success and highlights the hard work of organisations like Animals Asia.

"However, this vile practice has not been banned in many Asian countries and reports indicate the trade is still widespread.

"The Government and the European Parliament must continue to put pressure on these

■ BY NICK AMES

authorities to bring a global end to the trade of bear bile."

Dave Neale, the UK director of Animals Asia, added: "In China, bear farming continues to incarcerate thousands of bears in despicable conditions.

"Animals Asia are working with the people and the Government of China to close down bear farms, rescue the bears to our China-based sanctuary and promote the many herbal and synthetic alternatives available to consumers.

"If we can stop the demand for bear bile we can ultimately free the bears and end this barbaric practice once and for all."

The trade exists due to the prescription of bear bile by doctors who practise traditional Chinese medicine.

The substance contains ursodeoxycholic acid, which is believed to reduce fever, protect the liver, improve eyesight, break down gallstones, and also act as an anti-inflammatory.

Only small amounts of bear bile is used in traditional remedies. About 500kg is used by practitioners every year.

But wildlife experts say more than 7,000kg is being produced, with the surplus used in products such as wines, eyedrops, and general tonics.



BEARY DEDICATED: Sharon Bowles, MEP for Kent, recently took part in Moon Bear Fun Day to help raise awareness of the cruel trade in bear bile which still takes place

A fashionable way to support children

FUND-raisers for Demelza Hospice Care for Children have organised a special event for ladies who lunch.

It is being staged to raise cash for the Bobbing-based hospice's work in caring for terminally ill children and their families.

Starting at noon on Thursday, April 2, at Eastwell Manor in Ashford, guests will enjoy a welcome drink where the opportunity will be given to view jewellery, handbags and clothing.

A three course lunch will be served half an hour later and between courses models from Cranbrook and Sevenoaks will be displaying various outfits on the catwalk.

There will be a raffle and the opportunity to purchase the fashion items on display.

Tickets are £40 per person with a maximum of ten per table, however there are a limited amount of spaces.

Laura Carey, area fund-raising manager for the hospice said: "I would like to thank Eastwell Manor for letting us use their facilities for our Spring Lunch and Fashion Show.

"This will be a great event and not only will it be enjoyable, it is a great way to support Demelza and raise awareness of the fantastic work it carries out."

Training to be a hot topic for castle visit

FIREFIGHTERS from across Kent will take part in a large-scale training exercise at Hever Castle.

As well as being an opportunity to practice their skills, the event on Sunday, February 22, will also test the historic building's salvage plans.

The three-hour exercise will involve firefighters from Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Westerham, Tonbridge, Rusthall, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Seal and Sittingbourne.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's urban search and rescue team will also be involved, as well as crews from Surrey.



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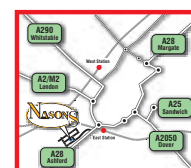
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Month-long respect campaign embraced by Kent police

Our 'gay-friendly force' in kids' essay contest

■ BY NICK AMES

KENT police are asking children to write an essay as part of a month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history.

The county force, recently recognised as one of the most gay-friendly employers in Britain, has a series of events throughout February.

These include exhibitions, a quiz, a celebration dinner dance and the competition, which has an under-14s category.

Youngsters are asked to write an essay explaining what this month's slogan: "All different, same respect" means to them.

It also has a 15 to 17 category and an 18-plus section with the winners receiving a £25 book token and a Kent Police shield.

Kent County Council is also backing the activities which include a month-long exhibition at County Hall.

A seminar has been held providing a brief overview of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. The dance took place on Sunday and featured a five-course meal. The history quiz takes place at Lenham Community Centre on Thursday, February 26.

Kent police are one of the most gay-friendly employers in Britain, according to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2009 which researches attitudes towards sexuality.

The force was ranked fourth – up 22 places



RAINBOW COALITION: Kent Police's support for the gay community and minorities has earned praise

from last year – because of "a proactive lesbian, gay and bisexual support network, which meets regularly with the Chief Constable and other chief officers to discuss relevant issues".

The group also helps with recruitment and retention and can provide specialised knowledge in specific areas of policing.

But the celebration is not without its critics. A spokesman for the Campaign Against Political Correctness said she felt "the police

can get a bit obsessed about this sort of thing".

"It's all part of a bigger picture and we wouldn't say anything if there was just, for instance, one event a month," she said.

"But a whole lot together is a bit much. You have to ask, what good does this sort of thing actually do? And is any money being spent on this? If so, is it the right way to spend money allocated for law enforcement?"

• Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Haunting images to make us think

A HARROWING new £3.2m THINK! campaign highlights the life-wrecking consequences of speeding for drivers and their victims has been launched by road safety minister Jim Fitzpatrick.

And the county's police are backing the campaign with 'zero tolerance to speeding'.

The new message is that if you kill someone while speeding you will be tormented for ever.

In the new TV advert a driver is haunted by images of the child he has killed – seeing him in the mirror; through the window of a bus and while in the park with his son.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: "More than 700 people were killed in 2007 in accidents where someone was driving too fast – that's two people every day of the year who didn't go home to their families.



"The last THINK! campaign on speeding highlighted the fact that if you hit a child at 30mph there's an 80 per cent chance they will live, but if you hit them at 40mph there's an 80 per cent chance they will die. It's 30mph for a reason. We want motorists to consider the consequences of speeding; what life is like for the driver who kills because they are in a rush.

"I hope this powerful campaign will get drivers to kill their speed before it's too late."

Department for Transport figures for 2007 show that in the South East 265 people were killed or seriously injured on 30mph roads where excessive speed was reported as a contributory factor.

Kent Police spokesman said: "We take a zero-tolerance approach to speeding. We use a combination of enforcement and education, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to drive home the message that we expect people to obey the law. The consequences of dangerous, irresponsible and antisocial behaviour on the roads can be horrendous."

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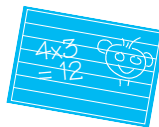
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HOME TO NATURE: Students watched as the area near their school was transformed into a pond, pictured right

Youngsters dive in to a natural way of learning

■ BY ED HILL

AS part of building work being carried out at the North School a new pond has been created to help children learn more about nature.

The pond will mean students can study plant and animal species that colonise the water and will have the opportunity to monitor aquatic lifecycles, micro climates, eco systems and the effects of global warming.

Staff believe learning through direct experience is more memorable and enriching and the school believes it will help it to gain stronger links with the countryside management industry.

The school has traditionally had strong links to rural land management given the town's heritage and surroundings.

Students from Year Seven studying life and living processes through to those in the sixth form studying the new advanced environment and land-based diploma will benefit from this facility.

The project is backed by the Rail Link Countryside Initiative, which supports projects in the Channel Tunnel rail link corridor, and the Kentish Stour Countryside Project.

Deputy head Stephen Dove said: "Our school is located where town meets countryside. The creation of an environmental pond and wild meadow habitat is a fantastic boost



towards the realisation of our goals."

Students, supervised by the Kentish Stour Countryside Project, will sow a mix of wild flower seeds this coming spring.

Because of its location with the railway line at one end and the River Stour flood plain at the other, the school says it is in a unique situation to exploit learning opportunities linked to the natural world.

Mr Dove said: "From our classrooms we can see the international station and high-speed trains to London and the rest of the world, while the river has a rich abundance of wildlife.

"We can hear the Eurostar and hum of the ring road, but we can also hear pheasants, ducks and wood pigeons.

"As part of our commitment to the outside classroom, students will learn with experts and develop a love of wildlife and a greater respect for life. They will also develop their researching, recording, analytical and investigative skills that are transferable across the curriculum and in turn will become experts teaching others."

BREAK TIME

Tune in for music classes over the summer

KENT Music has been running its music summer school for more than 60 years at Benenden School – and it will be back again this summer.

Courses at the school, held throughout July, are aimed at students aged between eight and 19. They are designed to develop student's musical skills through ensemble playing and singing.

This year the courses on offer include group wind band, symphony orchestras, string orchestras, jazz ensembles, recorder groups and singing.

The emphasis is on encouragement and entertainment and every student, especially those studying music for GCSE or A Level, will find it an invaluable help.

At the end of each course, students will take part in a public concert in Benenden.

There is a minimum entry standard and further details can be found on Kent Music's website.

Many students return year after year

and, as places are strictly limited, early booking is advised.

Anyone wishing to join the course should log onto www.kent-music.com and go to the Summer School link to download application forms. The closing date for receipt of forms is February 27.

Infants are online

DOWN'S View infants' school in Kennington now has a new website to help parents and children get the most from the school.

The site includes newsletters, advice on uniforms and links to other websites to help children with their learning.

This term the school is running a competition for students to design a mosaic called Learning is Fun.

It will be turned into a three metre artwork to go on the school's walls.

See www.downs-view.kent.sch.uk.

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yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...

It's snow fun anymore when the party ignores these parts

LAST week felt a little bit like there was a party everyone else was invited to, except for those of us in this part of the county.

The party was a snow extravaganza and the bulk of the UK put on their warm dancing shoes while we twiddled our thumbs and simply watched from afar and wondered what might have been. While everyone else west of Maidstone seemed to be having to dig themselves out of their homes and then strapping tennis rackets to their shoes to reach their garden gate, the east of the county was left wondering what all the fuss was about.

Granted, if you live on high ground round these parts then there was a decent helping of the white stuff to keep you entertained. But for the rest of us, the star of this party – the heavy white cloud-like one everyone wanted to spend some quality time with – did no more than pop his metaphorical head around our

door, say 'hi' and then hot foot it to where he really wanted to be; which appeared to be everywhere but here.

Because while, yes, there was some snow earlier in the week, by the end of that downfall on Monday – just as our hopes were soaring – rain gate-crashed the party just as it was warming up and turned our fun into a damp mush. For us there was no road chaos. There were no schools slamming shut their doors for the duration. There were no snowmen living to fight another day. And nor, most importantly and most annoyingly, was there any chance of avoiding work for a day on the grounds of it "simply being too dangerous to try and get in – tell you what, I'll work from home and certainly not take out a sledge and immediately head to the slopes the second I put this phone down". And I resent that.

It's like the same way employers factor into your wages that you're likely to have a handful of days sick during the year. I also like to think that there's a one or two day allowance

for inclement weather.

So I've been robbed of a couple of days of work-free fun. Sorry, I mean, working from home hardship. But the snow issue is one which is disappointing me now on pretty much an annual basis. Because we just don't seem to really get a decent deluge any more.

Granted, if you've picked this paper up at the train station and are heading in a westerly direction, you'll probably be passing whole villages of people still living in igloos and carving ornate creatures out of the snow as a living.

But it appears if you live within a short drive of the coast, you can kiss goodbye to toboggan high-jinks or sticking a carrot on a snowman in a rude and amusing manner.

And if that's not enough to drive down already deflated house prices, I don't know what is.

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Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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TALK TIME

TERRY STOCK

Terry Stock is chairman of the Friends of Hopewell group – which helps relations between the borough and our US twin town



What is the group's history?

Ashford council acknowledged a historic link with Hopewell in Virginia on December 9, 1993 and the twin-link was formalised on July 23, 1999. One of the main reasons for the link was the fact that Captain Francis Epps, born in North Street in May 1597, took a ship called the Hopewell in the early 1600s to Virginia and went up the St James River where both Jamestown and Hopewell were established. In May 2007 the Americans held celebrations to remember the founding of the colony.

How did you get involved?

I became involved with the Friends of Hopewell when my wife Maureen and I moved from New Eltham to Ashford in March 2003. I was asked to stand as chairman at the AGM held in November 2007 and was elected again in 2008.

How can people get involved?

Members of the club pay an annual subscription of £8. We are always looking for new members. Should anyone wish to join I can be contacted on 01233 666291. We also hold a monthly meeting on the third Monday of every month at the Downtown Diner in Park Street from 7.30-9pm.

The events we hold raise money for visits to America which take place every other year. In September 2009 members of the club are due to visit America and stay at families' homes. You need only find your air fare. I have visited Hopewell on two previous occasions. I can assure anyone going of a very warm welcome.

YOUR LETTERS



We are high and icy in Challock

While I know there was not much snow in Ashford town centre which hung about, for those of us who live on the high ground in rural areas, the snow was hanging around for ages.

Challock, for example, remained under several inches for days.

Jill Turner
Challock

Southeastern train service is so flaky

The recent spate of snow has shown just how useless this country is at dealing with any sort of emergency – even one as feeble as a few flakes settling on the ground.

And worst performance of the day goes to rail firm Southeastern.

I travelled down from the Midlands and everything was



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fine. The countryside was snow covered but the train made good progress on its way into Kings Cross.

There was a short delay and it arrived 20 minutes late but so far so good.

Then the tube was alright as well – quick journey down to Charing Cross only to discover it was completely closed off.

No-one on duty – just a sign asking people to "make alternative travel arrangements".

Granted it was snowing in London – but Kings Cross was fine and so was St Pancras as far as I could see.

I went across to Victoria and it was the same story – no trains into Kent at all.

Eventually I settled for a coach and an hour later I was in the north of the county going through the Medway towns where, OK, it had snowed.

Then 45 minutes after that I was in Canterbury where there was a bit of the white stuff but nothing like the amount I saw at the station where I started my journey – Cambridge as a matter of fact.

Then on to Folkestone where there was hardly any snow at all.

Well, the point of this story is as follows. The snow was heavy in East Anglia into London but the trains ran.

Southeastern just seemed to have given up.

Conditions were fine as far as I could see the more east I travelled. So why had no trains been run into London?

It was a truly feeble effort.

Miles Grant
By email

It's snow fun for children anymore

What a fuss the snow caused last week.

Schools closed all over the place and no trains.

I have one question to ask – why were the schools closed?

I can remember struggling into classes when I was a child 20 years or so ago.

They were some of the best I can remember – snowball fights

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and slides in the playground.

But now no doubt health and safety have put a stop to all that.

I have sympathy for today's children – they just don't seem to have any fun.

Patricia Hope
By email

Snow? We're being ripped off I think

When I was younger we seemed to always get snow in Ashford. These days there hardly seems to be any at all. Or if it does fall, it's gone within hours – not days.

I'll be honest, I feel a bit short-changed!

J Hannah
By email

Basically a non-event took place last week

I woke up last week to be told there was a "snow event" set to come along by an extremely excited weather forecaster.

I was excited as well – what could this be, I wondered.

Well – there it was. Yes, a fall of snow.

I look forward to a few "rain events" and maybe the odd "sun event" later in the year.

Brian Leonard
By email

Clear roads takes a scientific approach

One of the by-products of the recent snow was the lack of cars on the road.

Surely, if today's orthodox scientific thinking is to be believed large amounts of traffic would have generated sufficient greenhouse gases to warm the planet up to melt the wretched stuff and keep the roads clear.

Martha Fisher
By email

Terrorists develop cold new tactics

Terrorists have certainly got the wrong idea.

Instead of buying explosives why not invest in a few snow generating machines.

That would bring the country to halt for sure.

Harry Samson
By email

Shoppers leave me asking questions

Interesting to read that County Square saw such an upturn in shoppers over the Christmas period. Forty per cent does seem to be an awful lot.

It does, however, beg the ques-

tion... if the town is doing so well and figures are up, how come shops are closing and we're in a recession?

Ian Campbell
By email

Opera, but with popcorn

CULTURE lovers in Ashford have a chance to enjoy some of the world's finest opera on their doorstep this Saturday.

But rather than on stage, it will be in high definition and on the silver screen.

Cineworld will be showing a series of live performances from the New York Metropolitan Opera, the first of which is on Saturday from 6pm.

The series opens with Donizetti's Lucia Di Lammermoor. Other performances will include Alan Gilbert's D. Atomic and Richard Strauss's Salome. Ten operas will be shown over the coming months. Viewers will also be able to see behind the scenes footage.

Cineworld manager Andy Grove said: "We are very excited to give customers an experience that might not necessarily be able to

Opera has to be screen to appreciated

Isn't the joy of opera about seeing it in the flesh? About hearing the music while sat in an atmospheric setting?

I'm just not convinced that would – or indeed could – be recreated while sitting in a cinema on an Ashford leisure park.

It's a bit like when they beam rock concerts onto the big screen – surely you want to be there in person not sat in a dark comfortable cinema?

However, despite all that, I do think it's a good thing for the town and I'll be interested to see how successful it proves.

Gordon Smith
Wye

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Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City - 1981 FA Cup Final

The 1981 F.A. Cup became only the tenth final in history to finish in a draw, and to a replay it went on a damp Wednesday evening in April. But the fireworks were well and truly lit that night, as the nation was treated to a cracker, and a goal of sublime quality by Ricky Villa as Spurs clinched the F.A. Cup for the 6th time in their history.



Chelsea v Leeds - 1970 FA Cup Final

The first time is always the sweetest, as Osgood and co triumphed over treble chasing Leeds United after the two teams had battled it out for over 240 minutes of absorbing football.

Relive it all over again in this specially produced programme featuring extended highlights of the first match and the full 120 minutes of the Old Trafford Replay.

Arsenal v Manchester United - 1979 FA Cup Final

Regarded as Wembley's finest finale, this was where the best was saved until last. With United competing in their third final of the late 70's and Arsenal looking to avenge their shock defeat to Ipswich the previous year, the stage was set for a heavyweight showdown between two of the countries most prestigious teams in the last final of the decade.

It was a magnificent final to end an incredible decade, and now you can see it all over again, with the full match in its entirety and post-match interviews from the Wembley tunnel.



West Ham v Arsenal - 1980 FA Cup Final

This time around it was Second Division Hammer's turn to be the underdogs against Terry Neill's FA Cup holders Arsenal, making their record third successive final appearance.

On a day that Wembley basked in the May sunshine, West Ham United outshone Arsenal, and for the second time in five years the FA Cup headed back to the East End.

Relive the day all over again as the Hammers outgunned the mighty Gunners to achieve one of the most sensational Cup final victories in the history of the famous competition.



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VISUAL COMEDY: David Caves and Jack Reynolds act as a variety of people, ranging from Irish country locals to female Hollywood stars

Two men and a play

Duo play 15 characters in this unusual Irish comedy

RURAL Ireland meets the glamour of Hollywood in the hit stage comedy *Stones In His Pockets*.

An array of colourful characters appears in this culture clash story about a movie production crew that decides to film in a quiet Irish village.

The local community is overwhelmed with excitement and the demand for extras, leading to lots of hilarious incidents and some tensions among the villagers.

What makes this award-winning play particularly remarkable is that the large cast of film folk and bemused locals is portrayed by just two actors. David Caves and Jack Reynolds play 15 characters between them, from two young Irish men dreaming of fame to the Hollywood diva who stars in the movie.

Caves revealed that with so many switches between characters, there is not much time to worry about forgetting his lines.

"It's fairly relentless and you don't

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

Tuesday, February 17
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



have time to indulge in much, which is good," he said.

"The costume changes are fairly minimal. There's not much set, really, and just a trunk containing several jackets and waistcoats that we change into, so the audience can see that difference and attach certain items to certain people.

"Sometimes it's so quick, the change is more of a physical thing."

The audience does need to pay attention as it does not have the luxury of several actors dressed in wigs and costumes to differentiate between characters. However, Caves has found that audiences quickly grasp the concept and find the unusual experience very interesting.

"I think the audience gets a lot of pleasure out of recognition of the characters," he said. "Sometimes it will get a laugh even before I speak,

just because I change the way I put my legs or something."

With such a variety of people to bring to life, Caves already has a couple of favourites among the large cast.

"I really like playing the Hollywood actress, people really respond to her," he said. "I also like Finn, who's a bit of a simpleton who goes on quite a journey."

Written by Marie Jones, *Stones In His Pockets* has won numerous awards, including the Laurence Olivier Award for best new comedy, and received three Tony nominations on Broadway.

"It sets out its stall really quickly as a light-hearted comedy, but it does have some quite poignant moments," Caves said.

"It's cleverly written. The author has juxtaposed the humour with quite a serious sucker-punch. It's great when you feel the audience is with you during those funny moments, then literally in seconds you are talking about something that's rather sad."

• Tickets cost £17.50/£15. Book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk, or phone 0844 8471776.



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EVERYONE'S favourite railway character, Thomas the Tank Engine, will visit Tenterden Town Station over the next two weekends.

The friendly engine will be bringing some friends along to meet his fans, along with Sir Topham Hatt, the Fat Controller, to make sure everyone is on their best behaviour. The ticket price includes a one-hour return train ride to Wittersham Road, the chance to join in with Thomas & Friends scenarios, a busy programme of children's entertainment, regular Annie and Clarabel

rides at the station, face painting, balloon modelling and roundabout rides.

Mementos will be on offer at the Thomas souvenir shop and there will be hot and cold refreshments available. A colouring activity for children is at www.kesr.org.uk.

Tickets cost £12 for adults, £9.50 for children. First class upgrades cost £3 for adults and £2 for children. To book call 01580 765155.

JLS

Sunday, February 15
JJ's Nightclub, Maidstone

FOUR young men will be proving they've got the X Factor when JLS visit Maidstone this weekend.

The good-looking, charismatic boy band made it to the final of last year's ITV talent show, being narrowly beaten to the prize of a £1 million recording contract by Alexandra Burke. Now the four-piece vocal harmony group is hitting the road to win yet more fans with their outstanding voices.

Aston Merrygold, JB Gill, Ortise Williams and Marvin Humes had already begun to earn acclaim as JLS – which stands for Jack the Lad Swing – before their appearance on The X Factor, winning the UMA Best



Unsigned Act Award in 2007.

At their first X Factor audition, they wowed the notoriously picky Simon Cowell and fellow judges, becoming the only group to

reach the final under mentor Louis Walsh.

Fans can see the boys in action on Sunday. Doors open at 9.30pm and tickets cost £7.50, book online at www.tick.it.

JETHRO

Thursday, February 19
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

WEST Country wag Jethro continues to sell out venues all over the country with his distinctive Cornish wit.

The cheeky comic has been delighting comedy fans for decades with his mischievous adult humour and tales of his renowned friends, Denzel Penberthy, Slipalong Trevaskis and Bill Pedureare. His last DVD, Live In Cuckoo Land, sold nearly 250,000 copies in the first two months of release and audiences cannot get enough of his hilarious live shows.

Jethro started his working life in the Cornish tin mines and trained to be a carpenter before taking up singing in pubs. When his voice dried up one day, he filled the silence by telling jokes and found these proved far more popular than his songs.

His career has gone from strength to strength since that day, though Jethro does not appear on television or radio a great deal, preferring to rely on word of mouth to attract audiences.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call the box office on 0844 8471776.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Angelic band to revive all the hits at pub gig

THREE girls and one very lucky man will be performing in Willesborough.

Fallen Angels is a female-fronted band playing rock and pop hits from the 80s up to the present day. More about the band is at <http://fallenangels.moonfruit.com>.

They will play at the Hooden on the Hill in Silverhill Road on Friday. For more information about the venue call the pub on 01233 662226.

Doctor aims to rock you with a blues mix

A HEALTHY dose of live rock and blues is just what the doctor ordered for music fans this weekend.

Doctor Sin plays tracks by the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Cream and The Who with some blues thrown in. To hear the band play see www.myspace.com/doctorsin.

They will play at The Albion in Albion Place, Mead Road, Willesborough, on Saturday. Call the pub on 01233 622795.

Singles can enjoy hart breaking with big cats

BREAK a hart at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park on Valentine's Day.

During the 'heart making, hart breaking' event on Saturday, single people will be invited to make papier mache harts which will then be placed in the big cats' enclosure for their enjoyment.

At £25, tickets include park entry, workshop and guided tour, followed by drinks. Call 01303 264647 for details.

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Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or to the address on page 2, at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

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This feature was compiled with assistance from Fremlin Walk

ASHFORD SHOPPING

There's something for every special person

IT'S Valentine's Day on Saturday so don't forget to head into the town centre to snap up that perfect something for the one you love or admire.

From card shops to book stores, DVD stockists to supermarkets, you will not be able to miss a huge range of items with a romantic twist.

To help you with your decision process, take a look at the selected items below and remember, if all else fails, there's always chocolates and flowers.

A perfect gift for your favourite bookworm

FIRST it was MP3s and iPods, now it's books and the likes of Sony's The Reader.

Where music fans can carry around thousands of songs in their pockets, literature lovers can load up hundreds of titles in one slim-line gadget.

Available from selected Waterstone's stores and at www.waterstones.com each Reader comes with 100 classic eBooks, with thousands more available. The Reader carries a price tag of £224, so that someone had better be truly special.

Purrfect presents for all your pampered pets

ROMANCE is in the air for pets too this year with the latest Valentine's Day range from Pets At Home.

Make your dog feel loved with a squeaky heart toy (£1.49) and get your cat moving with the heart teaser catnip toy (£2.93). While tired pets can relax after a long day in the cosy heart paw bed (£14.99).

Pets At Home has a store on the Gallaghers Retail Park off Norman Road or see www.petsathome.com.

Tantalise your lover's tastebuds with a treat

GIVE chocoholics a Valentine's Day to remember with some premium treats from Godiva.

Their True Love heart boxes, with their cute flurry of hearts, flowers and butterflies, come with five delicious Coeurs Pétillants hearts for £5.75 or 11 for £12. Splash out on a Romantic heart box, priced from £30 to £60, or give your sweetheart the plush Godiva Valentine Bear, priced at £15.

See the full range at www.godiva.be.

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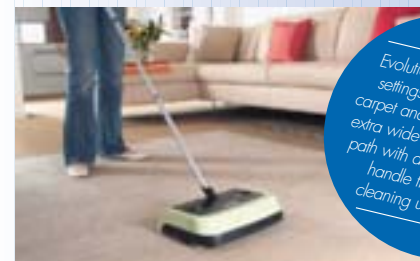
There is a Build-A-Bear Workshop in the Whitefriars centre, Canterbury.

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yourashfordmusic

Month of treats introduce Quarterhouse to the scene



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE county's newest entertainment venue kicks off in style in March – with a month-long programme of soloists, bands and DJs.

Quarterhouse's dedicated Music Month features a host of fresh sounds and rising stars across all genres, moving seamlessly from indie and dance to hip-hop and jazz.

Kent singer/songwriter Nick Harrison will headline the Folkestone venue's opening MM night on Friday, March 6, with support coming from the likes of Seven Story Down, Floors and Walls and Kids Love Lies.

MOBO-award-winning hip-hop star Sway will take the mic the following night. Support comes from DJ 279, Afrikan Boy, Bubbz, Nate Glace and Backbeat Junkie.

A silent disco – the cool kids' current craze – will be held on Friday, March 20, followed by 3 Daft Monkeys on the Saturday.

Twice BBC Jazz Award nominees The Robert Mitchell Trio will bring the month to a close on Saturday 28, performing covers of million-selling mainstream acts such as Radiohead and Massive Attack.

Festival manager Roberta Spicer said the MM line-up was purposefully broad, saying: "We've worked hard to programme the best in fresh young talent, as well as some of the UK's top acts to ensure Folkestone and Quarterhouse are put on the map for live music."

"Music Month gives us the chance to gauge audience reaction to different music and to showcase the facilities at Quarterhouse."

• For more information, visit www.monthofmusic.co.uk



ALL SORTS: Sway (left) and Nick Harrison are two of the great acts on offer in a month of varied music

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TUNE IN: Take a look at the launch of Jon Woode's new album



SOUNDS GOOD: Hear Lucy Kitt play her song Laurel Canyon



THE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 2 D-FINITIVE - Space (Tenterden)
- 3 Kayley Weller - A Long Drive Home (from Deal)
- 4 Luke Jackson - Am I Good Enough for You (Canterbury)
- 5 Luna Park Rescue - Ground Floor Power (from Tunbridge Wells)

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (12A)



Brad Pitt plays a man born 80 years old and ageing backwards. The film takes us through Benjamin's unusual life, from 1918 to the 21st century, and the people and places he encounters.

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When she inherits a book, Maria discovers that in her hands the ancient stories come alive. Now, as the last Moon Princess, she must unearth secrets of the past before Moonacre disappears forever.

Talented Mr Hoffman's in no doubt over film

BY ELLIE GENOWER

PHILIP Seymour Hoffman isn't giving the game away.

In fact, he's positively defensive over the question of whether his character, the modernising Catholic priest, Father Brendan Flynn, inappropriately interfered with a young male student in his new film Doubt.

"Is he guilty or not? That question wouldn't be a question that I'd ever answer," the actor says. "I would never ever tell a living soul anything about that. It's of no interest to you or to the viewer. I didn't sit in a chair and say 'Hmmm, I wonder if he's guilty or not'."

The point of Doubt, says Philip, are the grey areas. Was Father Flynn inappropriate or wasn't he? Stone-faced parish school principal Sister Aloysius, played by Meryl Streep, is convinced he is, along with suspicious nun Sister James (Amy Adams).

"You wouldn't assume someone was guilty without having any evidence," he says. "Whether he's guilty or not is ultimately one of many things. The hot topic is you can assume his guilt without knowing anything."

The 41-year-old actor was attracted to exploring not only the themes of the movie, based on a play by John Patrick Shanley who also directed the film, but the subject of change in the Catholic church.

In 1964, when the film is set, the church was undergoing a dramatic reformation. As an advocate of making the church more tolerant and accessible, Father Flynn is put in direct conflict with Sister Aloysius.

Usefully, Philip was able to turn to elements of his own past to prepare for the role, as he was brought up a Catholic, albeit in a different world to the one audiences see in the film.

"I did communion but never went to Catholic



NO DOUBT: Philip Seymour Hoffman's not letting the scent of another Oscar distract him from fatherhood

school," he says. "I never did confession. I went to church, so I know what goes on but wasn't the typical Catholic."

Father Flynn is the latest in a string of memorable character parts for Philip, who got his big break in the 1992 Al Pacino movie Scent Of A Woman. Since then, he's appeared in the likes of Boogie Nights and The Talented Mr Ripley and he took home the best actor Oscar in 2005 for his portrayal of Truman Capote.

Doubt has already won him critical plaudits and a Golden Globe nomination. But he doesn't seem bothered about the Oscar buzz,

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not least because he has other things on his mind. His girlfriend, costume designer Mimi O'Donnell, gave birth to their third child, Willa, last October.

Despite the strained subject matter, initial doubts and the intense shoot, Philip claims filming Doubt was fun.

"I had a good rapport with all of the cast," he says. "As dramatic as the film is, it was great fun. It was very serious, you know, the work was, but ultimately the minute we could have fun, we did. We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed each others' company."

"But I'd never be able to row with Meryl like we do in the movie," he adds, smiling.

"I would never want to get into a heated argument with her!"

DOUBT
Certificate PG

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Sun – 2.50pm
- ▶ **The Silence of Lorna (Le Silence de Lorna) 15** Mon – 6.20pm
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Page 44





Have a bonza time down under

■ BY KIM PILLING

'BEAUTIFUL One Day – Perfect the Next' may not be quite as forthright an advertising blurb as the 'So Where The Bl*dy Hell Are You?' slogan famously chosen by Tourism Australia, but it's still a confident statement.

It very accurately describes the Great Barrier Reef state, and is therefore an appropriate phrase selected by Queenslanders, who certainly treated me to nine days of whirlwind action and adventure.

Our journey, a 'tour of eccentric Queensland', took in bush walking, rainforest trekking, pumpabiking (a sort of human-powered hydrofoil), reef snorkelling, wining, dining and stand-up paddle-surfing, among other things.

We began in Cairns, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef in the far north of the state.

A short walk from our hotel led us to the town's reef fleet terminal and a full-day catamaran cruise to Michaelmas Cay.

We enjoyed a lazy afternoon snorkelling in the turquoise-blue sea surrounding the tiny coral island and then took a seat on a semi-submersible vessel which provided stunning views of the reef, not to mention the giant sea turtles. Throw in a tasty buffet lunch on board and at a total cost of £48 that's bonza value.

Speaking of bonza, a 'swaggie' – an original Aussie bushman – awaited us later that evening at Cairns Night Zoo for some billy tea and damper. Torches were at the ready for a nocturnal view of some native critters.

We got to pat the wide-awake koalas, fed hungry kangaroos around a campfire and got up close, but not too close, and personal with



BEAUTIFUL: Meet the animals in all kinds of stunning settings when you take a tour of wonderful Queensland

some venomous spiders, snakes and crocodiles.

Then next morning was the real thing and a two-day rainforest and rock art 4WD safari. We headed for an outback camp at Jowalbinna, Aboriginal for Dingo's Ear, in the Quinkan region. Aboriginal occupation here dates back more than 30,000 years, with startling images of spirits, animals and human figures adorning its sandstone shelters.

After 'slumming it' in the outback, we headed back into the rainforest for a luxury night's stay at Voyages Silky Oaks Lodge at the foot of the Mossman River Gorge, popular with honeymooning couples. It's a beautiful resort.

Next was a trip south to the trendy coastal resort of Noosa, but not before popping into Australia Zoo – home of the late, great Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin.

Irwin and his wife Terri took over manage-

ment of the zoo in Beerwah in 1992 and today it resembles something of a shrine to the naturalist and TV personality who was fatally pierced by a stingray barb two years ago.

Next it was on to the Sunshine Coast, where the sophisticated set go for their hols in Noosa, before heading to Fraser Island – the largest sand island in the world and a truly wondrous place, home to a sprawling rainforest, more than 100 beautiful freshwater lakes and even a shipwreck.

We spent the night at the four-star Kingfisher Bay resort, where we had a bush tucker taste 'trial' in the restaurant. Several glasses of Cabernet Sauvignon and the stunning sunset view sweetened my palate. We then ended our tour at Brisbane, the state capital.

Is Queensland really 'Beautiful One Day – Perfect the Next'? Mate, it's a cracker.

FACT FILE: AUSTRALIA

Time difference	+11 hours (GMT)
Capital	Canberra
Climate	Variable
Population	21.4 million
Currency	Aus dollar (approx \$2.2 to £1)
Religion	Christian
Language	English

History

Kim Pilling flew to Queensland as a guest of Tourism Queensland and Austravel with JAL, which offers return flights London to Brisbane from £1,125.

Virgin Blue return flights Brisbane-Cairns start at £150. Qantas flight Fraser Coast-Brisbane starts at £60.

Austravel offers two weeks discovering the best of Queensland – with a two-night stopover in Tokyo – starting at £2,940, including return flights and room-only accommodation. Airport transfers not included unless specified. Valid for travel Sept 1-Dec 4. Austravel reservations: 0844 412 4620 and www.austravel.com

Tourism Australia accepts enquiries online only at www.australia.com



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PROPERTY NEWS

Thousands more could be losing their homes

THERE could be 75,000 home repossession this year, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

But there are concerns that this figure could be an under-estimate, following research by MoneyExpert.com.

The independent comparison website has revealed more than 900,000 homeowners have missed at least one mortgage repayment in the last six months.

This represents one in 12 homeowners. Just a year ago, only one in 25 of the people holding the 11.8 million outstanding mortgages in the country missed a payment.

MoneyExpert.com considers that missing a mortgage payment is as serious as it gets and is a clear signal a homeowner's finances are at breaking point.

More than 1,000 homes are being taken back by lenders every week, according to the Financial Services Authority, despite interest rate cuts and new Government schemes to help struggling home-owners.

Unless banks and building societies pass on the bank rate reductions to borrowers, mortgages are still too expensive for some people.

Prices show hope but it's still too early to tell

THE average price of homes across the country rose by 1.9 per cent in January, according to the Halifax.

This news is sure to bring a boost to the housing market, which has been under severe strain in the last few months.

However, the building society's analysts warned that one month's figures did not indicate an end to the downward trend in prices, which they say have dropped 17.2 per cent in the past year.

The average house price has now reached £163,966, according to the Halifax.

Martin Ellis, chief economist at the Halifax, said his bank's latest survey did not necessarily mean the property market had reached a turning point after last year's dramatic slump in mortgage lending, completed sales and prices.

"It's far too early to make any conclusion," he said.

"The figures are going against the trend and our survey shows that if you compare the last three months to the previous three months then prices are still down significantly, by about five per cent."



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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: As measures are taken to try to boost our property market, buyers are finally taking an interest, but they are not all from close to home

International interest in our homes on the up as discounts draw buyers

■ BY NICK AMES

bargain for anyone earning dollars or euros.

He said: "As well as indigenous interest, we have also witnessed a substantial increase in registration from buyers across the world.

"With discounts of up to 40 per cent on some property due to last year's price falls and some lenders offering best-buy mortgage rates of below four per cent, UK house prices currently look like a bargain to foreign buyers.

"We have quite definitely seen an increase in buyer enquiries and as we are right at the sharp end of any housing market transactions we predict continued growth in buyer activity."

County Homesearch believes this news rein-

forces the findings of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which reported that "buying interest is now at levels not seen since 2006".

Mr Haward added: "Those buyers who have no need of a mortgage can rely on us to negotiate some very real bargains, and even if house prices dip by another five to ten per cent, we can see some excellent house price growth starting in 2010.

"In five years' time today's buyer will be sitting on a substantial profit."

Estate agents in Kent have also stated that the market is getting better and have encouraged mortgage lenders to be more flexible in their approach to making loans – boosting the market by encouraging potential purchasers.

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Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON OIEO £160,000
Two bedroom semi detached bungalow with NO CHAIN. Entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, bathroom, rear garden surrounding property. Detached garage.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WYE £165,000
Two bedroom semi detached house in village location with no onward chain. Entrance hall, two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom. Garden measuring 50ft.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SOUTH ASHFORD £172,950
No chain. Four bedroom linked detached home. Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, 26ft lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory and family bathroom. Driveway parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £175,000
Three bedroom link detached house in cul de sac location. GF shower room and WC, bed 4/family room, lounge, kitchen/diner and utility room. Garage & driveway parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SINGLETON £179,950
Vacant possession. Three/four bedroom detached house. Ground floor WC, two reception rooms, kitchen and family bathroom. Block paved driveway and garage.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



CHARING £199,950
"No Chain" Three bedroom semi detached house on large plot. Lounge & dining room, kitchen, utility, front, rear and side gardens, carport and driveway parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £200,000
Three bedroom semi detached property. Lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs shower room and WC, conservatory and family bathroom. 150ft rear garden and ORP for multiple vehicles.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



ASHFORD £210,000
Four bedroom semi detached property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Approx 80ft rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON £219,950
Three bedroom detached house. Cloakroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, en suite shower room, family bathroom, garage & driveway parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SHADOXHURST £225,000
Three bedroom detached bungalow in popular village. Lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, bathroom and off road parking. No chain.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



ASHFORD £245,000
Five bedroom terrace house with basement room. Two reception rooms, master with en suite. Near to town centre and station. Rear garden and allocated parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



BOUGHTON ALUPH £278,500
No Chain. Detached three bedroom house. Lounge, dining room, sun lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. Views of village green.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON £294,950
Four bedroom detached house on private cul de sac. Kitchen/breakfast room, utility, two reception rooms, conservatory, en suite shower room and bathroom. Double garage and drive.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON £295,000
Four bedroom detached house. Two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/diner, en suite shower room and family bathroom. Garage with driveway parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



CHALLOCK OIEO £325,000
Five bedroom property. Downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, study, lounge, en suite master and family bathroom. Double attached garage, ORP.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WYE £325,000
Two bedroom detached bungalow near to village centre. 130' x 50' rear garden, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom & family bathroom. Period outbuilding in garden. Garage & driveway.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WOODCHURCH OIEO £400,000
Four bedroom detached with hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, breakfast room, en suite to master and family bathroom. Double detached garage, GCH and d glazing.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



RUCKINGE £495,000
Rural four bedroom detached bungalow with outstanding views of countryside set in approx. 4.4 acres. Lounge, family room, kitchen, utility space, bathroom.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



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PRESS RELEASE February 2009

LOCAL AGENT SUGGESTS BORROWERS RESIST TEMPTATION OF LOWER MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

Following the recent interest rate cut local estate agent, Your Move, is urging borrowers to resist the temptation to opt for lower mortgage repayments and instead look forward to saving potentially thousands of pounds in the longer term.

The message follows the unprecedented announcement that the Bank of England has cut interest rates to just 1% - the lowest rate ever. For many the news may mean that their repayments will be automatically reduced to a lower repayment level by their lender but Your Move fear that consumers may not realize that by choosing to maintain their existing, pre rate cut, mortgage repayments that they could pay off their mortgage far earlier than originally planned. They could also potentially save thousands of pounds in interest. The same goes for anyone who simply choose to make overpayments to their mortgage.

Joanne Lee-Wharton, Financial Consultant for Your Move in Ashford commented: "It's always great news to find out that repayments on a loan are being reduced but ultimately there's still an outstanding loan which is attracting interest so basically the more money you can repay, and the quicker you do it, the better. The same goes for mortgages."

"Already some of the big banks are receiving requests from customers to make overpayments to their mortgages. No doubt many of these will be from people who don't want to get used to lower repayments levels but are instead choosing to maintain existing repayment levels to ensure they pay off their mortgage quicker."

"And, of course, there's also the issue that as house prices have decreased, so too has the level of equity a customer has in their property. By making mortgage 'overpayments' borrowers may help to maintain, or even increase, the equity on their property. All in all it makes sense to overpay, if the lender allows it, and we'd urge anyone to consider making this move."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) holds a similar view with the CML Director General, Michael Coogan stating:

"Now is a good opportunity for borrowers on interest only mortgages to switch to repayment mortgages to use this period of low interest rates to start to pay down their loans."

Joanne added:

"A homeowner who took out a £100,000 repayment only mortgage over 25 years at a 3.99% interest rate would have been paying £527. If, however, they chose to overpay by £100 per month then the mortgage would be repaid six years earlier saving £15,366 worth of interest. If the same homeowner was to pay £200 more per month then the mortgage term could be reduced by 9 years and 8 months saving a staggering £24,216."

"It's certainly worth considering paying as much as possible into your mortgage. At Your Move, for example, we have a wide range of fixed and tracker products that are available that specifically offer overpayment facilities as well as specialist Offset mortgages which offer an ideal alternative to having a cash sum on deposit with a bank or building society where savings rates have been severely reduced."

For those interested in finding out more about the mortgage options available to them, how they may be able to reduce their mortgage loan or mortgage term or who want to review their related insurance provision, simply contact your local Your Move branch at 55 High Street, Ashford TN24 8SG or call them on 01233 639006 (*).

There will be a mortgage application fee. The precise amount will depend upon your circumstances and will not exceed £399. A minimum fee of £299 applies.

(* Calls may be recorded and/or monitored for data protection and/or training purposes.

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

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SHADOXHURST



£245,000

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Your Move are delighted to offer this detached family home in Molloy Road, Shadoxhurst. The property accommodation comprises four bedrooms with en-suite to master bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen with utility area, family bathroom/wc and cloakroom/wc. Additional accommodation comprises a garage and driveway, front and rear gardens and the property can be purchased with no onward chain.



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• Link-Detached House • 2 Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/Breakfast Rm

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KINGSNORTH £160,000



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WILLESBOROUGH £107,500



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BRABOURNE LEES £179,995



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We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £93,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

Agents Address: YOUR MOVE, 55 High Street, Ashford TN24 8SG

Agents Telephone Number: 01233 639006

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Countrywide

South Ashford



OIEO £71,995

Two bedroom flat top floor flat with views over the park. Popular South Ashford. Garage en bloc.

Kennington



£115,000

3 bedroom terrace house. Lounge, open-plan kitchen/diner, downstairs cloakroom, family bathroom, garden to rear.

South Ashford



OIEO £124,995

Two bedroom terrace property. Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge and conservatory, bathroom. No chain.

Willesborough



£129,995

3 bedroom terrace house with room for improvement. Lounge/diner, kitchen, 2 further reception rooms. No chain.

Willesborough



£175,000

3 bedroom extended end of terrace house. 2 receptions, conservatory, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, car port.

Sellindge



£189,000

4 bedroom semi detached house. Cloakroom, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, en suite shower room.

Singleton



£209,995

4 bedroom detached house. 2 reception rooms, downstairs WC, conservatory, family bathroom, Garage, ORP.

Kennington



£209,995

3 bedroom home with no chain. Cloakroom, kitchen, lounge/diner, en suite shower room & family bathroom.

Shadoxhurst



£249,950

3 bedroom bungalow. Generous corner plot, offers potential for further development subject to planning consents.

Willesborough



£275,000

5 bedroom house with 2 receptions, study, utility, 2 en suite shower rooms, family bathroom, garage, driveway.

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A three bedroom detached property, cul de sac location, ground floor WC, utility room, en-suite shower room, double glazing, gas fired radiator heating, driveway parking, detached garage.



ASHFORD OIRO £124,995

A three bedroom end terrace property, double glazing, gas radiator heating, kitchen diner, separate lounge.



MERIDIAN COURT £149,500

A two bedroom purpose built bungalow, warden assisted, double glazing, economy 7 heating, no chain.



FAIRVIEW DRIVE £174,999

A four/five bedroom town house property, ground floor WC, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, separate shower room, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, garage, no chain.



SHADOXHURST £239,950

A three bedroom detached bungalow, village location, substantial plot size, double glazing, oil fired central heating, conservatory, driveway parking, garage.



WILLESBOROUGH £184,950

A 4-5 bedroom semi detached property, kitchen/diner, utility room, ground floor shower room, family bathroom with separate shower, off road parking, no chain.



ASHFORD £235,000

A unique four bedroom detached property, situated in a non-estate location, en-suite shower room, utility room, 26' sitting room, double glazing, NHBC remaining.



CHARTFIELDS £179,950

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MOTORS NEWS



Alfa holds its value and topples Mini's top spot

CONFIRMING our favourable impressions of Alfa Romeo's new MiTo, this head-turning supermini has topped the BMW Mini as number one for resale value.

Market watchers at CAP say that over a year/10,000 miles, seven MiTo versions should beat Mini values, the MiTo 1.3 JTDM diesel retaining 81 per cent of original price – five per cent more than the closest Mini. Even after three years/60,000 miles the MiTo 1.3 JTDM in Veloce trim tops the charts, retaining 48 per cent of original price.



Good motoring highs and lows for new Ka

FORD'S Ka is set to be ridiculously cheap to run – now underlined by lower insurance groups and a better values forecast when used.

Cover starts at 1E – the lowest rating available – for the Ka Studio, with all others rated 2E, including the new diesel Zetec model.

Used motor market watchers at CAP also predict residual values for the second generation Ka – priced from £7,945 when new – will be 14 per cent better after three years/60,000 miles.



Deals and prizes with Chrysler trio this month

FEBRUARY visitors to Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge dealerships will leave with something desirable.

Test driving any model can bring a night in a UK luxury hotel and buyers get a seven-night UK hotel break for four and the chance of a week in the USA.

Deals include Jeeps from £239/month and the new seven-seat Dodge Journey MPV (pictured) for even less or, via a PCP, from £199/month. The big Chrysler 300C (from £27,595) also now comes with free luxury upgrade until the end of March.



JUST THE TICKET: The Kia Carens may not be the best-looking midi-MPV on the market but it is keenly-priced and well-equipped with a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty

Kia 'bus' passes holiday road test without moans

ROAD TEST KIA CARENS

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

the brilliant Eden Project – a near 100-mile round trip for us.

That has to be a tribute to the Carens' space, easy access and all-round comfort; the car rides well enough whether heavily or lightly laden, with little 'MPV' roll or wallow, though it could never be described as sporty to drive.

Our car was fitted with the excellent 138bhp 2.0-litre turbodiesel (from £14,055) – there are also 130bhp 1.6-litre and 142bhp 2.0-litre petrol options – with the low down pulling power needed to easily move up to seven plus luggage. It is smooth and worked well with the automatic 'box (£1,000 extra) on the test car – the Sports Mode manual selection proved useful for Cornish gradients and lanes.

Admittedly, the Carens is not the best-looking midi-MPV. Kia says it injected 4x4 'outdoorsy' styling, but slab sides and a low rubbing strip just make the car look baggy.

Nevertheless, it is keenly-priced and well-equipped with a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

Unlike its forbears, it achieves this without being crudely executed or cheaply finished inside – a good buy for tough times.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SMALL FAMILY ESTATES/HOLDALLS

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THIS sector used to dominate UK car sales, but volumes have been eroded by new categories such as 4x4 sports utility vehicle (SUV) and MPVs or 'people carriers' and encroachment by upmarket compact executive models. Nevertheless, many second-hand car buyers still like the idea of a spacious, comfortable and more conventional family runabout, preferably with a hatchback and they have never been better value as other buyers shun them in the stampede to downsize. Two models here have also disappeared from the new car market.

FORD MONDEO



ONCE the UK's favourite car, its fall from favour reflects changing tastes rather than the Mondeo's ability. The car's greatest weakness is the bonnet badge – something the latest generation tries to overcome with Germanic quality and detail. Nevertheless, the previous car was well-built, superb to drive and incredibly spacious. Apart from the best-selling hatchback there is a saloon and one of the roomiest and best-looking estates in the sector, plus a massive range of engines.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL VECTRA



MUCH of that said about the Mondeo applies to its erstwhile arch-rival, the Vectra – now replaced by the Insignia. The final Vectra matched its Mondeo contemporary in most areas, but was chunkier with an interior so well built that it almost intimidates. The choice of bodies echoes the Mondeo and the estate is still the best load carrier in this sector thanks to a longer wheelbase. Diesels are excellent – far better than the troublesome higher output petrol options.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN PRIMERA



NISSAN'S final Primera was launched in 2002 and could not contrast more with its staid predecessors. Wind-cheating teardrop lines made it one of the most distinctive cars in this class, but it offers great driving, terrific value and reliability, plus good Renault-sourced turbodiesels for endurance and economy. The Sunderland-built range latterly excluded a saloon option in favour of the best-selling hatchback and spacious and rather more elegant estate.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Lineage
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Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
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p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words

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TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM
Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals. WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE
Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494

HOLD MY HAND
Single mum, 42, 5ft9, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dining out. I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363

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GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

GET A STRIKE

African, single mum, caring, adventurous, generous, 30yrs old, medium build. I love cinema/TV, music, bowling, shopping, cosy nights in. Box 882789

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easilygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, affectionate guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6. I've got hazel eyes and dark hair, and enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTm sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840

WHO KNOWS?

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448865

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term, serious relationship. Box 438102

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good-looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, two kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

TRY ME

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have two kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

HERE WE ARE

Shy girl, 38, loves having laughs and lots of fun, seeks similar guy to enjoy special moments and hopefully love with. Box 448679

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A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

Like reading/reading, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542



FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hi, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

TOGETHER?

Slender lady, 42, 5ft9, long dark hair, loves walking her dogs, enjoys the outdoors, seeks gentleman to spend time with and get to know. Box 446981

FAST LOVE

Single lady, 43, likes gardening, eating out, cinema, music and more, seeking male for friendship and maybe more. Box 446991

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

COUNTRY LASS SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Country-loving happy lady, 43, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments. Box 883723

TACTILE

Divorced single mum, 43, from Kent, likes swimming, cinema, walking on the beach, socialising and sharing a bottle of wine, looking for a nice man. Box 448900

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'8", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37, 5'8", blonde/blue, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

SCOTTISH LASS

Magpie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship, leading to more. Box 882693

SOULMATE SOUGHT

African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998

HERE WE ARE

Easilygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

HERE AND NOW

Genuine young lady, 45, 5ft2, seeking loving, caring, honest, reliable guy to have fun and enjoy romance with. Box 448551

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952

ENTERTAIN ME

Female, 50, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter; must be honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man. I can please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347

FOR KEEPS

Hi I'm Karen, 50, medium build, 5ft, separated, devoted mum, looking for friendship with someone who likes dining out, evening walks, and perhaps something lasting... Box 882618

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring woman with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, MORE

Curvy, cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

ATTRACTIVE

Professional female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music; looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Intelligent lady, 55, young appearance, blonde, loves country music, socialising, cinema and staying in; looking for a man with good morals for lasting, happy love. Box 448822

ENJOY LIFE

55yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTm caring, genuine man. Box 446798

REPLY to an ad, call:

0905 211 0651

(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair/green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

DEVOTED IN LOVE

Petite lady, 57, 5ft3, long dark hair/green eyes, like theatre, cinema, music, reading, socialising, meals out and entertaining at home. Looking for someone like you. Box 882546

THE NICE THINGS...

Attractive, slim, 57yr old woman, new to area, looking for similar male, well built. I'm a smoker, like clubs, pubs, and nice things in life. Box 448572

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662

RESCUE ME

Independent lady, 58, outgoing, loving, friendly, kind, caring, most of all honest, non-smoking, lots of fun...looking for similar male for LTR. Box 882641

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?

Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

Quick, easy way to view a member's photo!
Look for the **P** symbol.
Just enter the **six-digit Box number**, followed by a space, then **PHOTO** and send to **82250**
Your phone must be WAP-enabled
£1.50 per photo
Add a photo of yourself
Register your number with us & send by MMS to **07746 738 788**. Enter P2P as subject.
MMS - standard network charges apply.

HAPPY AS ME
Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812

COULD IT BE YOU?
Non-smoking lady, 60, 5ft2, medium build, bubbly, enjoys theatre, cinema, gardening, walks, holidays...WLTm someone to share the rest of my life with. Eastbourne. Box 448837

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446392

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

Lovely female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

SILVER FOX

Sincere widow, 68, 5ft6, medium build, likes a glass of wine, walks, watching TV, seeks outgoing gent for companionship. Battle Box 448792

TO ENJOY LIFE

Hi I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium, lots of interests: motorcycles, WLTm kind and honest female to share fun times and adventures with. Box 445124

LONESOME LAD LOOKING FOR LOVE

Blond 39yr old lad, blue eyes, educated, attractive, solvent (just), genuine, loyal, adventurous, definitely different. Seeks beautiful future with someone like you. Box 885814

DOWN-TO-EARTH

36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

FOR GOOD, FOREVER

Hi I'm 40, 5ft8, with short brown hair, brown eyes, loves fishing, walking, swimming, sport; seeking female who's kind, genuine and caring. Box 448686

HONEST AND KIND

Down-to-earth, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sport; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easilygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248



MEN seeking women

HELLO, I'M
Andy, 26, 5ft10, likes going to pubs and restaurants, just looking for a similar girl to fall in love with. Box 448888

UP FOR IT?

Andy, 26, 5ft10, very good looking and fit, likes wining and dining in nice pubs and restaurants and would like to take you out. Box 448896

LOVERS PARADISE

Very independent guy, 27, 5ft7, medium build, own business, looking for someone to spend quality time with, friendship first, then maybe more. Seaford. Box 448845

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

CAN YOU KEEP UP?

Very sporty male, 33, 6ft2, muscular, green-blue eyes, dark hair, likes clubs, pubs, socialising, seeking female to relax and have fun with, perhaps more. Box 444221

DARE YOU?

Hello I'm James, 34, 5ft6, short brown/grey hair, blue eyes, stocky build, professional, no ties, loves socialising and cinema...looking for a date to join me! Box 448584

WORD FOR WORD

Confident male, 35, 5ft11, dark blond hair, blue eyes, varied interest, seeking loving, loyal, black female for a long relationship. Box 448581

GENERATION X

Confident outgoing male, 36, enjoys theatre, film, music, dancing; looking for a nice person to take out and sweep off their feet...is that you? Box 448774

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Attractive, caring man, 37, very loyal, genuine, down-to-earth, from East Kent, many interests, it's about you you're with, not what you're doing. Box 423435

HOP IN!

Hi I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium, lots of interests: motorcycles, WLTm kind and honest female to share fun times and adventures with. Box 445124

LONESOME LAD LOOKING FOR LOVE

Blond 39yr old lad, blue eyes, educated, attractive, solvent (just), genuine, loyal, adventurous, definitely different. Seeks beautiful future with someone like you. Box 885814

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HONEST AND KIND

Down-to-earth, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sport; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596

BROWSE and listen line:

0906 753 3093

(Calls cost

TO ADVERTISE: EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 FAX US ON: 01303 817004

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- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

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SUPPLY & PERMANENT TEACHING STAFF REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE KENT AREA

We are now recruiting for April & September 2009

Excellent rates of pay!

Are you looking to work for innovative schools throughout the Kent area, where your input could really make a difference? Are you a dedicated, motivated and ambitious individual looking to teach in a student focused environment? If you have either a PGCE, Qualified Teacher Status or have had experience working in further education and would like more information regarding these vacancies then contact us today!

Call Anna on 01843 604890 or Clare on 01227 762233 email anna@morganjones.net or clare@morganjones.net

outlookfostering services ltd

Outlook Fostering Services Ltd is a leading independent fostering agency, which recruits, trains and appoints foster carers to provide exceptional care for looked after children. The following vacancy has arisen:

Full Time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant - Ashford

£14,000 - £15,000 per annum

Outlook are seeking an experienced full time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant to complement an existing team which provide administrative support to a multi-professional team.

Excellent organisational, keyboard and telephone skills are essential, as is the ability to operate sensitively and confidentially. Applications are invited from calm and professional team players with excellent communications skills, who thrive on working in a busy environment. The successful candidate will have excellent administrative skills, and knowledge of MS Word is essential.

For an application pack please call 01233 610661 or apply on line at www.outlookfostering.com

Closing date for applications 13th February 2009

ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Speech Therapist to work with Children with Challenging behaviours

We require a Speech Therapist to join our multi-disciplinary pool of professionals who are able to offer Individual Psychotherapy, Counselling, Life Story Work, Anger Management and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Applicants will be accredited by BACP and/or UKCP registered and be qualified to a minimum of diploma level and knowledge of working with clients with Learning Difficulties beneficial. Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762

We are an equal opportunities employer

Crossroads Caring Carers

Charity Registration number 1102895
Company Registration number 5048186
CSCI Registration number 0000051399

You could make a difference to people's lives

Are you looking for a job where you know your work is really valued? If the answer is yes then you had better give Crossroads South East Kent a call, because that's what we do every day and we may have just the job for you.

Crossroads South East Kent is a Registered Charity that enables people who are looking after someone at home, in need of constant care, with some much needed and much deserved regular time off.

We need enthusiastic and caring people to help us to offer our service to more Carers living in the Ashford, Folkestone and Dover area.

We would offer you all the training you need to provide a quality service to families, offering you real job satisfaction, interesting and varied work, plus ongoing support.

Crossroads South East Kent offers genuinely competitive rates of pay, flexible working hours and excellent terms and conditions.

Want to know more? Then give our office a call on: **01233 663198**

Email: crossroads@southeastkent.freeserve.co.uk

You will need to hold a full driving licence and have regular access to a reliable car.

CUT OFF DATE 23rd February 2009

Please note these vacancies are subject to an enhanced Police Check.

Crossroads South East Kent is committed to equal opportunities across its range of activities.

Kent County Council

YISP Project Worker

Starting salary £18,288, with progression through contribution related pay to £20,061 pro rata

2 x 37 hours per week, temporary/secondment opportunity to cover maternity leave

1 x funded until December 2009 - CFE/09/0043

1 x funded until April 2010 with possibility of extension - CFE/09/0044

Based at Adolescent Resource Centre, Tonbridge

The Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling District multi agency Youth Offending Prevention Project are seeking to recruit candidates with a real interest in working with young people who are at risk of offending.

You will need excellent organisational and communication skills, be self motivated with the ability to engage with adolescents, parents/carers and a wide range of partner agencies. Assessment skills, case management and good interpersonal skills are pertinent to this post as is previous experience of working directly with disaffected young people and/or those at risk of offending.

This post could involve evening and weekend working.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Closing date: Midday, 18th February 2009.

A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same, so neither are our people.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Assessor/Reviewing Officer Ref: P0586

Salary: £19,736 - £25,441 pro-rata (full and part time positions)

MKC offers Apprenticeship frameworks and is responding to employer training needs for on-site assessment. We are therefore looking to appoint qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer's in Engineering, for Fabrication and Welding or Plumbing and Heating. The successful candidates will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering and Plumbing department's. A relevant craft qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Closing Date Friday 20 February 2009.

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer

TEACHERS!
ARE YOU EARNING
£132 PER DAY?
IF NOT, CALL US! 01634 817575



EDUCATION SENSE

buzzlines travel

European and UK Transport Manager

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a European and UK Transport Manager to work within a dynamic and fast moving Company.

The Key responsibilities for the role will include managing a fleet of over fifty coaches whilst ensuring that both vehicles and drivers are fully utilised.

The successful applicant will be a UK and International CPC holder familiar with the planning of vehicles and the ability to operate a successful traffic workflow through the generation of strong innovative problem solving techniques.

For more information call the HR Department on **01303 261870** or email **hr@buzzlines.co.uk**

B.G.D. Specialist Cars
RANGE ROAD, IND. EST., HYTHE

Service/General Manager

required to replace retiring Dealer Principal. The ideal person should be conversant with the service and repair of motor vehicles and be able to maintain high standards of repair, communicate with customers, suppliers and staff.

This position commands a starting salary of **£35,000** per annum with fringe benefits

Please contact:
Mr Musson – Tel: 01303 264700

Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £15,113 during training?

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with **Canterbury Christ Church University**, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2009 in

Art Design & Technology Music Mathematics Science

Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea, e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 27 March

HMYOI ROCHESTER, MEDWAY PRISONS
HEALTH PARTNERSHIP >

**EXTRAORDINARY JOBS.
EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.**

HMYOI Rochester requires Registered General Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Learning Difficulties Nurses:



BAND 5 REGISTERED NURSES (GENERAL, MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES)
£20,225 - £26,123 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £1,542 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

The Registered General Nurse will nurse in a general practice environment and respond calmly in a changing environment or to urgent events. Skills including chronic disease management, good assessment skills, triage, minor illnesses, sexual health and health promotion skills are desirable.

The Registered Mental Health or Learning Difficulties nurse will assess and support a range of community mental health, mental illness and behavioural issues including work with substance and alcohol misuse. Skills needed include crisis intervention and risk management and work with self-harm. CBT and behavioural management skills and experience working with conduct disorder, ADHD or Autism/Aspergers spectrum behaviours will be valued.

Nursing in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

HMYOI Rochester requires two Band 4 Health Support Workers delivering a range of one-to-one and group interventions:

BAND 4 HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (PRIMARY CARE & PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE) – HMYOI ROCHESTER (HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER)
£17,316 - £20,818 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £952 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ 3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educational skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

In return, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 20 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



Career Opportunities

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills 08/73
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

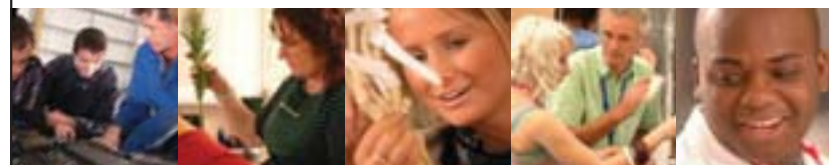
- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above post is Monday 16th February 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE
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Director of Human Resources
MidKent College
Medway Kent
Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership

delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to-date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact
Katherine Reilly on 01634 884398
or email **katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk**

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on **07725 128661**. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.



The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way. September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.

BT Local Business

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Desk Based Sales Executive**Basic £14k+£16k OTE commission (total £30k)****North and East Kent**

BT Local Business is a successful venture created by BT to provide complete voice, data and PC solutions to local SME businesses.

We are looking for individuals with a proven record of selling solutions and hardware to SME's.

A successful candidate must be bright, self-motivated and confident when dealing with customers and will be required to make telephone calls into our extensive customer base.

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If you would like to be part of this exciting venture, please send your CV to:

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 and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



Would you would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?

Then you may wish to join us at Spire Academy from September 2009.

Graduate Trainee Places

We are looking to offer Graduate Trainee Places in the subject areas of:

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Spire Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Closing date: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spireacademy.com or contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spireacademy.com or on 01227 710392 ext 227 for an information pack.

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening, including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT**Eastern and Coastal Kent**

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kents largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation package available, occupational sickness benefit, please car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service, enhanced maternity pay, flexible working policies.

Community Matron/Continuing Care Team Support Workers (*) (🚗)

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum
Ashford Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH336
Shepway Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH323
Canterbury Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH324
Swale Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH325
Dover/Deal Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH326
Thanet Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH327

We are looking to recruit 30 Continuing Care Support Workers to work across East Kent based at different locations. Are you a flexible and caring individual who is keen to enable people to be as independent as possible whilst remaining in their own homes to provide personal care or clinical interventions within a multi skilled team for patients with long term conditions and continuing care needs? If so then this post may be for you.

You will need social or healthcare experience to join an innovative community team. The willingness to work towards an NVQ is essential. You will need the confidence to work alone as well as function effectively as part of a large team.

The Continuing Care Team delivers programmes of care that may include nursing and social care tasks. You [Team members] will work unsupervised on a daily basis with an identified caseload in the client's usual place of residence, which could be their own home, or an environment appropriate to their needs. Shift work including night duty is an essential part of this role.

You will require excellent interpersonal skills to enable you to work with a range of staff from various professional backgrounds, with the ability to motivate and encourage people whilst carrying out planned care/ rehabilitation programmes set by team members. There is also an element of personal care assistance required in the post as some of those referred may be frail and dependent.

If you would like to join this friendly and committed team we would like to hear from you.

For an informal chat call Hayley Mullan on 01304 865609.

Closing date: 20 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

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Working within the Structured Psychosocial Interventions Functional Specialist Group, you will be based in East or West Kent and manage a client caseload under clinical supervision. You will also be required to complete client assessments and contribute towards the care planning process.

You will need a qualification in counselling at diploma level and experience of working in the drug and alcohol field would be desirable. BACP accreditation or working towards this is essential.

The flexibility to work away from your service base and the ability to work outside normal office hours would be an advantage.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635.

Please quote reference 550.

Closing date: Friday 13 February 2009.

Interview date: Thursday 19 February 2009.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers.**

Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

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You will have the benefit of working with experienced officers who hold flexible warrants for partnership working with HSE and other Kent local authorities.

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For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail).

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 22 February 2009

Interviews: w/c 2 March 2009



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In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important.

Required for September 2009

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An exciting opportunity has arisen, following internal promotion, for an outstanding teacher with strong leadership credentials to lead our English team.

We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Learning, who will lead the English team at this exciting stage in our continued growth and development. Although results last year were above the 30% threshold, we are aiming for greater things in the coming years.

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

You will either have QTS in English Teaching or currently be completing your GTP/PGCE year.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of Mathematics to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

Prospective candidates will either have QTS in Mathematics Teaching or currently be completing their GTP/PGCE year.

Closing date for the above posts: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Required for April 2009

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Closing date for this post: 12.00 noon, 24th February 2009.

Further details and application forms for all the above posts are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

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Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226

Email: office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk

An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required
Closing Date: Friday 6th March Interviews: Tuesday 17th March



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Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

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The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently. Salary will be £15,113

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We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk. Closing Date is Friday the 27th of February.



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- **Occupational Therapist**
- **Nurse with Neuro Rehabilitation Experience**
- **Speech and Language Therapist (this post is part time only)**
- **Psychologist with Neuro Experience**

For this particular role we would consider a range of appropriate experience and skills. However this would not be suitable as a first post.

Interviews for all posts will be held week commencing 23rd February, 2009

Please contact The Strode Park Foundation HR Department via 01227 373292 for an application pack, additional information, or to visit. Alternatively, email: recruitment@strodepark.org.uk. Strode Park Foundation, Strode Park House, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7NE. All posts are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

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(A Specialist Technology College & Associate Training School)
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Closing date: Monday, 9th February 2009

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Please do not telephone. No agencies.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL
PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL
MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **St Augustines Priory, Priory Road, Bilsington, Ashford**
Applicant: **Libby Lawson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL
PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL
MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Fraser's Coldharbour, Coldharbour Farm, Barham's Mill Lane, Egerton**
Applicant: **Lisa-Jane Fraser**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

County award awaits top village shopkeeper



VILLAGERS who think their local shopkeeper deserves a pat on the back are invited to nominate them as this year's top community retailer.

If your rural independent shop owner gives great customer service and deserves recognition for this or any other work in the community, here's your chance to thank them.

Ask your parish council to enter the shop for the Community Retailer of the Year 2009. It is run through Action with Communities in Rural Kent, a registered charity, and the contacts are Sean Carter and Miranda Hayes on 01303 813790.

The entry form can be found at www.ruralkent.org.uk and any parish council can nominate a local independent rural shop. The deadline is March 31. The winner will be announced on September 1, along with the winner of the Village of the Year award.

Last year's winner was Ian Flory, of the Spar shop in Sissinghurst, who is pictured above receiving his award from Sean Carter.

That's quite wonderful

THE Wonderful Creative Agency's Give a Tenth programme is proving popular.

It gives a tenth of its time and resources to the community and is a big hit with Kent charities.

The Maidstone-based agency offers marketing advice, fundraising strategy development, design production and PR for free. Several charities, including the Pilgrims Hospice and Demelza, have already been involved.

Others include Music for Change in Canterbury and the Kent Association for the Blind.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Julie Maddocks asks: In business, is small really beautiful? Search 'crunch'

'Freeze rates or risk us going to the wall'

Businesses appeal for rethink on planned 5% rates rise

■ BY TONY PATEY

COUNCILS could be swamped by appeals from firms fighting the recession as business rates rocket to their highest level in 16 years.

Already there has been an angry backlash from industry groups and the Conservatives, who are urging the Government to take urgent action to stop the five per cent rise in April.

Companies are trying to combat the toughest economic conditions for at least 30 years and now, on a national basis, they're being asked to stump up what represents an extra £1 billion.

Councils collect about £20 billion a year from business rates, but the review of new levels is based on the profits and turnover of companies from a couple of years ago.

If their trading levels have changed dramatically since, they can appeal. The rate is set by central government and the tax is collected by local authorities.

Channel Chamber of Commerce manager Caroline Chambers said that two years ago most firms were doing well, and if they are still doing well there is no problem, but for those doing a lot worse or making losses, the picture is different.

She said: "Businesses are already struggling to pay their rates. They are not a bottomless pit of money. They are already feeling the pinch."

"I would urge every single business that is going to appeal to start the process now."

Shadow minister for communities Caroline Spelman said: "The Government needs to look again at the formula and methodology, otherwise it could be the nail in the coffin for many struggling firms."



FEELING THE PINCH: Caroline Spelman MP and Roger House have joined the chorus of alarm over business rate rises

British Chambers of Commerce director-general David Frost said firms were already struggling with their cash flows – vital day-to-day money used to run businesses – and would find it hard to meet the new rate rise.

"If the Government is serious about helping firms survive the worst downturn in a generation, it should be cutting the rates until the economic situation significantly improves."

Roger House, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses for Kent and Medway added: "Cash flow is king for small businesses which want to hold on to and train their staff and grow their enterprises during these recessionary times."

"With small business failures entering their hundreds each day and taking thousands of jobs with them, it seems counterproductive to introduce higher taxes."

CBI business environment policy director Neil Bentley said the rate should be frozen and it was an "unnecessary" increase anyway.

"This will affect nearly every firm, and struggling retailers will be particularly hard hit, at a time when they need all the help we can give them," he said.

"This threat to jobs, investment and the survival of viable businesses can still be avoided if the Government lives up to its promise of doing everything it can, by freezing the rates."



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Picture ADY KERRY



NIGGLE: Lisa Dobriskey will not take part in the indoor season this year to prepare for the World Championships

Lisa rests up before taking on the Worlds

ATHLETICS

LISA Dobriskey has opted not to race competitively until the summer to give herself the best chance of winning a medal at the World Championships in August.

The 25-year-old, who finished fourth in the 1500m final at the Beijing Olympics last year, has been recovering from a lower back problem during the winter. Dobriskey was due to take part in the Emerald Nuts Midnight Run in New York on New Year's Eve, but the injury ruled her out.

With the World Championships in Berlin

her main target, Dobriskey is hoping to stay injury-free ahead of the summer season. She will travel to South Africa for an intense fitness regime next month rather than take part in the indoor season.

She said: "I am a bit disappointed not to be racing. I have been recovering from a niggling back injury and I do not want to have an interrupted summer by injury."

"South Africa is a home from home really.

The set-up over there is great and it will allow me just to focus on the 1500m. I am not doing anything different in training, but I have to say the niggling injury has been a blessing in a way as it has taken the spotlight off of me."

After breaking into the elite level last season the Ashford athlete's goals for 2009 remain clear.

She added: "The big goals this year are to run under four minutes and to make up for the disappointment in Beijing by winning a medal at the Worlds in Berlin."

Kent stars didn't Goa on auction list

KENT have been spared making a tough decision over the availability of senior players Rob Key and Martin van Jaarsveld, after the pair were omitted from the Indian Premier League auction list.

The Kent skipper and vice-captain were on an original list of 148 players to be bid for by the eight Indian franchises, but both were excluded when the list was trimmed to 43.

It meant both Key and van Jaarsveld missed out and means they will both now definitely start the season for Kent.

Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff topped the bidding in Friday's auction in Goa, selling for a record £1.1million each.

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Gills top scorer Simeon Jackson on
winning January player of the month

Town's cup hopes taken by Angels

ASHFORD Town reserves threw away a two-goal lead to crash out of the Kent Intermediate Cup to Tonbridge Angels on Saturday.

The Nuts and Bolts looked on course to reach the semi-finals when they raced into a 2-0 lead. Scott Bouvier, in his first appearance since returning from Hythe Town, put them in front and set up Sam Mollah to double the lead.

Neil Manning then saved a penalty for Town, but Angels pulled a goal back just before the break.

The second half was all Angels and they scored three goals to win 4-2. Town are away at Thamesmead Town tonight.

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SPORTS STORIES
TO SPORTS EDITOR
GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**



Picture GETTY IMAGES

HARD TASK: Jamie Staff wants to give fellow Olympian Chris Hoy (right) a run for his money in the sprint and Keirin at next year's World Cup and Commonwealth Games

Staff sets his sights on overtaking legend Hoy

CYCLING

■ BY TOM HOWARD

JAMIE Staff's enthusiasm for cycling appears to be as healthy as ever after he revealed he is hoping to out-perform multiple Olympic cycling champion Chris Hoy.

The Ashford-born cyclist, who achieved his ultimate goal by winning gold in the Team Sprint at the Beijing Olympics last summer, is back in action this weekend in a World Cup meeting at Copenhagen.

After clinching the Olympic gold medal, Staff admitted his motivation wavered. However, he has set himself a new challenge in trying to beat Hoy, the four-time Olympic champion and Sports Personality of the Year 2008, in competition both this season and next.

He said: "It's hard. You reach the peak of your career, then you have to wonder what is going to drive you on in the future. I've set some big tasks to chase next season so that it gives me something to focus on."

"I want to have a serious go at racing Sprint and Keirin in the World Cup series and Commonwealth Games next year. I've learned a lot about myself and how I react to certain training, so I think I should be able to give Chris a run for his money next season hopefully."

The 35-year-old has been training in the

United States during the winter where he has enjoyed being out of the spotlight after a whirlwind of publicity following Beijing.

With the World Championships in Poland next month fast approaching, Staff is confident of retaining his place in the Great Britain team for the event.

He said: "I think I should be in with a good chance of making the team. Our form hasn't suffered too much since the Games, so I'm expecting to still make the final team this year."

"Obviously the youngsters are getting quicker, but I do my best to intimidate them as much as I can so they think I'm still better than them. They are getting quick though."

Log on to www.yourashford.co.uk for regular updates on how Staff gets on in Copenhagen this weekend.

Town manager dreams of revamped summer season

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

WITH freezing weather conditions wiping out the majority of fixtures this weekend Ashford boss Steve Lovell is in favour of a radical change to the format of the Ryman South.

Town were due to travel to struggling Chipstead on Saturday, but the wintry weather conditions suffered by most of the country forced the third postponement of a game in six weeks.

The Ashford boss has been frustrated by the disruptions this season and would prefer for the season to start earlier in the summer.

He said: "I don't think a winter break is needed but it would be nice though. I am all for summer football, they seem to manage it in Ireland without any problem. I think the crowds would increase and it would definitely benefit non league clubs as games would not be called off meaning finances would be strengthened. It will never hap-

pen but it is a nice thought."

After announcing last week he was in search of two new additions to his squad, Lovell is confident a new forward will join the club this week.

He said: "I tried to bring in a forward a few weeks ago but that did not work out. I have spoken to another target and I am hoping he will sign this week."

Town's promotion credentials are set to be tested once again this Saturday when they travel to Lovell's former side Sittingbourne.

The Brickies are just one point behind Ashford in seventh place and secured a 1-0 win against Town in October.

The game marks the start of a challenging run of fixtures for Ashford and Lovell believes this month could decide their season.

He added: "February is going to be very tough. The games just keep on coming."

"We will play Sittingbourne on Saturday which will be difficult. After that we have got Whitstable who are fighting for their lives and then Cray. This is going to be a crucial month."

Log on to www.yourashford.co.uk for a full report on Ashford Town's clash with Godalming Town last night.



Picture: IOR KUPPO

CHANGE: Ashford boss Steve Lovell is in favour of an early summer season start

Sun was shining on some fixtures over the weekend

SUNDAY LEAGUE

BLIBY'S run in the Kent Sunday Premier Cup ended last weekend after they were knocked out by the holders Sun in a six goal thriller.

The holders from Gravesend took the lead early on, but Bliby equalised on the stroke of half-time through Pat Kingwell.

However, a poor start to the second half ultimately cost Bliby the chance to progress in the competition as they conceded two quick-fire goals. A Tommy Dawes goal put Bliby back in the game, but Sun scored a fourth to make the final score 4-2.

Bad weather accounted for several games but a smattering of fixtures went ahead. There was disappointment for Mersham in the Kent Sunday Junior Cup as they crashed out in a 3-2 defeat to White Horse.

Mersham were 3-0 down at half-time but a spirited fight back led by a brace from Mark Howles could not save them from defeat.

Ashford Cavaliers remain rooted to the bottom of the Premier league after a 2-0 defeat to second placed Troggs. The Cavaliers have won just once this season and are in desperate need for points to secure their status.

The game started in the worst possible way for the Cavaliers as Troggs opened the scoring early on through Matt Dyke. The Troggs defence held firm in the second half and wrapped up the victory with a goal from George Dyke.

The three points for Troggs has cut Market Hotel's lead at top of the division down to just four points.



Picture: IOR KUPPO

FROZEN OUT: Most Sunday League sides had their games postponed due to the wintry weather



WINNERS: Faversham Strikeforce is recognised and receive their award from Sir Trevor Brooking

Prestigious awards call for nominations

THE KENT County FA is inviting football clubs to make nominations for the 2009 Charter Standard Club Awards.

The prestigious awards are only open to clubs who have been attained the Charter Standard Award, which recognises clubs which achieve high standards in coaching, administration and child protection.

There are separate awards for club, adult club, development club, community club, coach and administrator.

Winners at the county level will go on to compete for regional and national awards. Kent have done well in recent years, with Faversham Strike Force FC, Bredhurst Village FC, and Bearsted FC all winning National FA awards, while Maidstone Rangers FC's John Harvey won National Club Administrator of the year.

Lee Suter, football development officer at Kent County FA, said: "The county has some great clubs with superb volunteers and this is their chance to gain recognition for the fantastic work carried out in grassroots football."

Nomination forms are available at www.kentfa.com, which also has more information on the Charter Standard.

Entries must be returned to Lee Suter by April 27, with winners announced in May.

SUPERBIKES



Picture: AIRWAVES DUCATI

TALENT: Leon Camier is among the favourites to win the British Superbike title this season

Camier turns to Stoner to prepare for Superbike season

HIGHLY-rated British superbike rider Leon Camier is preparing himself for the 2009 season by training alongside former MotoGP world champion Casey Stoner.

The 22-year-old from Ashford is a close friend of the Australian 2007 MotoGP champion after racing each other earlier in their careers.

Last year Camier spent time in Australia with Stoner as part of his rehabilitation from a broken leg sustained at Cadwell Park in 2007.

Camier went on to finish fifth in the British Superbike Championship last season, picking up three victories, including his maiden win at Snetterton.

The Airwaves Yamaha rider has enjoyed improving his fitness ahead of the season opener at Brands Hatch in April by training with Ducati star Stoner this week.

He told Britishsuperbike.com: "At the moment I'm in Switzerland with Casey Stoner, mixing up my daily training regime with a bit of snowboarding here and there which has been cool, but it's back to Australia soon where I'll stay until testing starts. Training is always so much easier when you've got guaranteed good weather."

"When I was over in Australia last winter with Casey I was still playing catch-up with my fitness levels and trying to get my leg back up to full strength, but what a difference a year makes. This year there's no stopping me, we can really push each other."

Camier is eager to start testing his new Yamaha machine and feels his GSE team will be contenders for the 2009 title.

He added: "I can't wait to get testing underway on the new Airwaves Yamaha. Everyone at GSE Racing is so determined to take home a fifth Championship title; there's a real buzz in the team and I'm really proud to be a part of it."

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See all the Winter Series rallycross action at Lydden Hill on Saturday



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